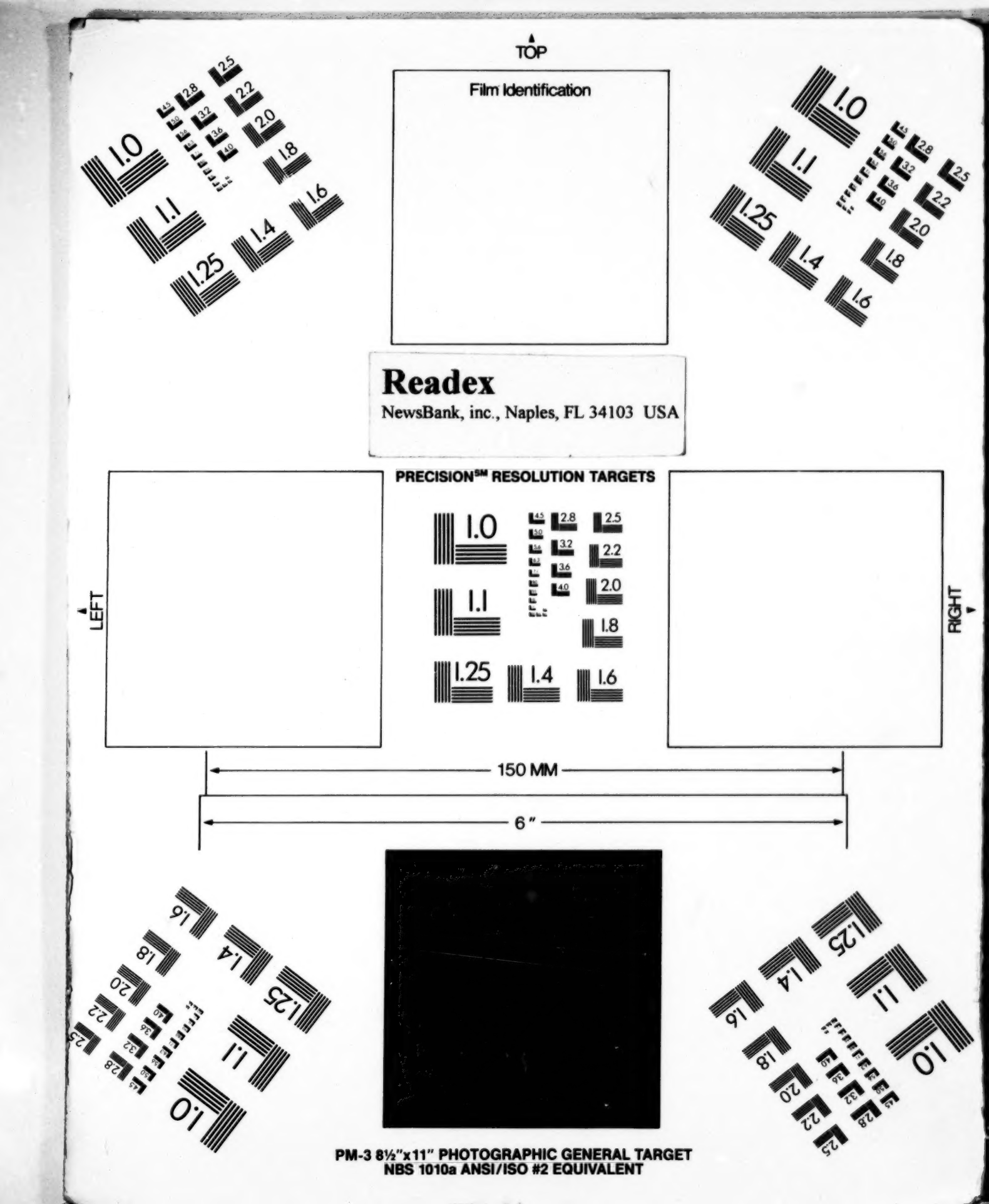

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United Nations A/65/PV.74

General Assembly

Sixty-fifth session

Official Records

74th plenary meeting
Friday, 14 January 2011, 11 a.m.
New York

President: Mr. Deiss ..... (Switzerland)

The meeting was called to order at 10.50 a.m.

Agenda item 133 (*continued*)

Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations (A/65/691)

The President (*spoke in French*): In keeping with established practice, I now invite the attention of the General Assembly to document A/65/691, in which the Secretary-General informs the President of the Assembly that 18 Member States are in arrears in the payment of their financial contributions to the United Nations within the terms of Article 19 of the Charter.

I would like to remind delegations that, under Article 19 of the Charter,

> "A Member of the United Nations which is in arrears in the payment of its financial contributions to the Organization shall have no vote in the General Assembly if the amount of its arrears equals or exceeds the amount of the contributions due from it for the preceding two full years."

May I take it that the Assembly takes note of the information contained in document A/65/691?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 125

International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994

Letters from the Secretary-General (A/65/529 and A/65/587)

Letter from the President of the Security Council (A/65/661)

Draft decision (A/65/L.57)

The President (*spoke in French*): We shall now proceed to consider draft decision A/65/L.57. I give the floor to the representative of the Secretariat.

Mr. Botnaru (Department of General Assembly and Conference Management): In connection with draft decision A/65/L.57, entitled "International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January 1994 and 31 December 1994", I wish to put on record the following statement of financial implications on behalf of the Secretary-General, in accordance with

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Please recycle

rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly.

By the draft decision, the General Assembly would decide that, notwithstanding the expiry of their term of office on 31 December 2010, Judge Joseph Asoka de Silva and Judge Taghrid Hikmet are authorized to complete the *Ndindiliyimana et al.* case, which they began before the expiry of their term of office; take note of the intention of the International Tribunal to complete the case in March 2011; decide that, notwithstanding the expiry of his term of office on 31 December 2010, Judge Joseph Masanche is authorized to complete the *Hategekimana* case, which he began before the expiry of his term of office; take note of the intention of the International Tribunal to complete the case in January 2011; and decide that, in order for the International Tribunal to complete existing trials or conduct additional trials, the total number of ad litem judges serving at the International Tribunal may from time to time temporarily exceed the maximum of nine provided for in article 11, paragraph 1, of the Statute of the International Tribunal, to a maximum of 12 at any one time, returning to a maximum of nine by 31 December 2011.

The extension of the terms of office of Judge Joseph Asoka de Silva and Judge Taghrid Hikmet through March 2011 and of Judge Joseph Masanche through January 2011 would require a total payment in honoraria amounting to $84,300 for an aggregate period of seven additional months. This additional requirement is in addition to the amount included in the revised estimates relating to the budget of the Tribunal for the biennium 2010-2011 (A/65/178).

With regard to temporarily exceeding the maximum of nine provided for in article 11, paragraph 1, of the Statute of the International Tribunal to a maximum of 12 at any one time, returning to a maximum of nine by 31 December 2011, the Tribunal, based on the latest trial schedule, envisages requiring the services of two additional ad litem judges over and above the maximum nine ad litem judges for a period of eight months during 2011. This would entail the payment of eight additional months of honoraria, in the amount of $154,100. This requirement is in addition to the amount included in the revised estimates relating to the budget of the Tribunal for the biennium 2010-2011 (A/65/178).

Accordingly, should the General Assembly adopt draft decision A/65/L.57, additional requirements in the amount of $238,400 for honoraria would arise under the budget for the Tribunal for the biennium 2010-2011. The Tribunal would make every effort to meet these additional requirements from within the overall resources amounting to $257,804,100 approved for the Tribunal for the biennium 2010-2011.

The President (*spoke in French*): The Assembly will now take action on draft decision A/65/L.57.

May I take it that the Assembly wishes to adopt the draft decision?

The draft decision was adopted.

The President (*spoke in French*): The General Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 125.

Agenda item 126

International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991

Letter from the Secretary-General (A/65/588)

Letter from the President of the Security Council (A/65/662)

Draft decision (A/65/L.58)

The President (*spoke in French*): We shall now proceed to consider draft decision A/65/L.58.

I give the floor to the representative of the Secretariat.

Mr. Botnaru (Department of General Assembly and Conference Management): In connection with draft decision A/65/L.58, entitled "International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991", I wish to put on record the following statement of financial implications on behalf of the Secretary-General, in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly.

By the draft decision, the General Assembly would decide that, notwithstanding the expiry of his term of office on 31 December 2010, Judge Kevin Parker is authorized to complete the *Đorđević* case,

which he began before the expiry of his term of office, and take note of the intention of the International Tribunal to complete the case by the end of February 2011; and decide that, notwithstanding the expiry of his term of office on 31 December 2010, Judge Uldis Kinis is authorized to complete the *Gotovina et al.* case, which he began before the expiry of his term of office, and take note of the intention of the International Tribunal to complete the case by the end of March 2011.

The extension of the term of office of Judge Kevin Parker would require the payment of two additional months of honoraria, while the extension of the term of office of Judge Uldis Kinis would require the payment of three additional months of honoraria, amounting in total to $146,400 above the amount appropriated in the revised appropriation for the biennium 2010-2011.

Accordingly, should the General Assembly adopt draft decision A/65/L.58, additional requirements in the amount of $146,400, representing an aggregate of five months of honoraria, would arise under the budget for the Tribunal for the biennium 2010-2011. The Tribunal would make every effort to meet these additional requirements from within the overall resources amounting to $320,511,800 approved for the Tribunal for the biennium 2010-2011.

The President (*spoke in French*): The Assembly will now take action on draft decision A/65/L.58.

May I take it that the Assembly wishes to adopt the draft decision?

The draft decision was adopted.

The President (*spoke in French*): The General Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 126.

Agenda item 7 (*continued*)

Organization of work, adoption of the agenda and allocation of items

Request for the inclusion of an additional sub-item submitted by the Secretary-General (A/65/232)

The President (*spoke in French*): The General Assembly will now take up a request submitted by the Secretary-General in document A/65/232, relating to the appointment of a judge of the United Nations Appeals Tribunal.

In his letter, the Secretary-General informs the General Assembly of the resignation of Judge Rose Boyko as a judge of the United Nations Appeals Tribunal effective 15 January. A vacancy in the Tribunal will therefore occur on that date.

As the agenda of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly does not contain a sub-item on the appointment of a judge of the United Nations Appeals Tribunal, the Secretary-General has deemed it necessary to request, pursuant to rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the inclusion in the agenda of the current session of an additional sub-item entitled "Appointment of a judge of the United Nations Appeals Tribunal", under agenda item 113, entitled "Appointments to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other appointments".

Owing to the nature of the item, unless there is an objection, I shall take it that the General Assembly agrees to waive the relevant provision of rule 40 of the rules of procedure, which would require a meeting of the General Committee on the question of the inclusion of this additional sub-item on the agenda.

It was so decided.

The President (*spoke in French*): May I take it that the General Assembly, on the proposal of the Secretary-General, wishes to include in the agenda of the current session an additional sub-item entitled "Appointment of a judge of the United Nations Appeals Tribunal", as a sub-item of agenda item 113 under heading I (Organizational, administrative and other matters)?

It was so decided.

The President (*spoke in French*): The Secretary-General has requested that the sub-item be considered in plenary meeting. May I take it that it is the wish of the Assembly to consider this sub-item directly in plenary meeting?

It was so decided.

The President (*spoke in French*): I should like to inform members that this additional sub-item becomes sub-item (g) of agenda item 113 of the current session.

Agenda item 122 (*continued*)

Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations

(l) Cooperation between the United Nations and the International Organization of la Francophonie

Draft resolution (A/65/L.26/Rev.1)

The President (*spoke in French*): Members will recall that the Assembly held the debate on agenda item 122 and its sub-items (b) to (w) at its 63rd and 64th plenary meetings on 13 December 2010.

I now give the floor to the representative of Switzerland to introduce draft resolution A/65/L.26/Rev.1.

Mr. Seger (Switzerland) (*spoke in French*): As representative of the Swiss chairmanship of the thirteenth Summit of the International Organization of la Francophonie and as spokesperson of the group of Francophone Permanent Representatives, I have the honour to introduce draft resolution A/65/L.26/Rev.1, which I would now like to summarize.

The heads of State and Government of countries using French as a common language met at the thirteenth Summit of la Francophonie, held in Montreux from 22 to 24 October 2010. At that meeting, which coincided with the fortieth anniversary of the establishment of the International Organization of la Francophonie, leaders reaffirmed the links established by the French language between their peoples, States and Governments on the five continents. They also reiterated their desire to promote cultural diversity and multilingualism.

The 75 member States and Governments of the International Organization of la Francophonie, which represent more than a third of the Member States of the United Nations, are important participants in United Nations multilateral cooperation, in particular in the areas of development, democracy and the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in supporting human rights and the rule of law.

The draft resolution before the Assembly for adoption reflects the close links between the United Nations and the International Organization of la Francophonie. It also calls for further strengthening existing ties and follows up on the resolution on cooperation between the two organizations that was adopted by consensus two years ago (resolution 63/236). Moreover, the draft resolution highlights the role of la Francophonie as both an actor on the international stage and as a forum for consensus between countries of the North and South.

The draft resolution also expresses the desire of the International Organization of la Francophonie to implement the principles of the 3 November 2000 Bamako Declaration — which, as the Assembly is aware, pertain to the practice of democracy, rights and freedoms in Francophone countries. Those principles were underscored in the 14 May 2006 Saint-Boniface declaration on human security and the prevention of conflicts. La Francophonie is also keen to participate actively in resolving economic, social and humanitarian problems, in particular by working with the United Nations, thereby making a contribution to coordinating efforts in that regard.

The International Organization of la Francophonie also serves as a forum for sharing best practices with regard to combating serious cross-cutting issues, such as piracy, terrorism, organized crime, corruption and trafficking in drugs and human beings — threats facing many French-speaking countries.

United Nations peacekeeping operations are another area of interest to the International Organization of la Francophonie, given that they concern many French-speaking countries. Our organization believes that it is highly desirable that troops deployed in French-speaking countries be able to communicate in French. In reality, that is not yet the case today. La Francophonie believes that it is up to the United Nations to ensure respect for multilingualism in peacekeeping operations. The draft resolution also maintains that there should be sufficient French-speaking troops in peacekeeping operations taking place in French-speaking countries.

I should like to conclude by reiterating that the International Organization of la Francophonie will continue to pursue its efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, especially with regard to education, as well as to bear in mind the needs of the most vulnerable States, several of which are members of our organization.

The President (*spoke in French*): The Assembly will now take a decision on draft resolution A/65/L.26/Rev.1. I give the floor to the representative of the Secretariat.

Mr. Botnaru (Department of General Assembly and Conference Management): I should like to announce that since its publication, the following countries have become sponsors of draft resolution A/65/L.26/Rev.1: Australia, Ireland, Liechtenstein, Madagascar, Mauritius and Portugal.

The President (*spoke in French*): May I take it that the Assembly decides to adopt draft resolution A/65/L.26/Rev.1?

Draft resolution A/65/L.26/Rev.1 was adopted (resolution 65/263).

The President (*spoke in French*): I now give the floor to the representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, who wishes to speak in explanation of position following the adoption of resolution 65/263.

Mr. Ileka (Democratic Republic of the Congo) (*spoke in French*): I take the floor in my capacity as the Permanent Representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo in connection with the Assembly's adoption today of resolution 65/263, on cooperation between the United Nations and the International Organization of la Francophonie.

In that connection, I should like to point out that my country will host the fourteenth Summit of heads of State and Government of countries that share the French language. First of all, on behalf of my country, allow me to commend Switzerland for its excellent efforts in organizing the thirteenth Summit, at which the Montreux declaration and resolutions were adopted. I would also like to duly acknowledge His Excellency President Abdou Diouf, Secretary-General of the International Organization of la Francophonie, who continues to work tirelessly to raise awareness of our organization, including its profile in the press.

His Excellency Mr. Joseph Kabila Kabange, President of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, emphasized at Montreux my country's willingness to host its Francophone colleagues at a summit of la Francophonie. I should like to take this opportunity to thank all the member States of la Francophonie for choosing the Democratic Republic of the Congo as host of the 2012 Summit, which is something that has for many years been the hope and desire of the Congolese people. We assure the members of la Francophonie of the commitment of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to establish the optimal conditions for the success of that meeting in order to make it a landmark event for the organization.

I would like to assure the Assembly that the 2012 Summit in Kinshasa will not be an event for the Democratic Republic of the Congo alone; it will also be an event for the countries of the Great Lakes region and Central Africa, as well as for all of Africa. In the purest expression of the African and Congolese tradition of hospitality, I would like to take this opportunity to say to all those who will come to the Summit — whether they speak Lomongo, Lingala, Kikongo, Chiluba or Swahili — that they are welcome in Kinshasa, a city in the heart of the first continent.

The Democratic Republic of the Congo welcomes the fact that the General Assembly has acknowledged the main outcomes, resolutions and decisions of the thirteenth Summit of la Francophonie as comprising elements aimed at demonstrating the determination of countries that share the French language and at making their contribution, including the value added of their multilateral cooperation vis-à-vis the efforts of the United Nations.

Taking into account the commitments in previous resolutions, resolution 65/263, which we have just adopted, provides new impetus to the participation of the International Organization of la Francophonie with regard to preventing and resolving conflicts, United Nations peacekeeping operations and joint efforts aimed at peacebuilding, including election assistance and monitoring in Francophone countries.

In that connection, I would like to take the opportunity afforded by the adoption of this resolution to reiterate the readiness of the Democratic Republic of the Congo — a post-conflict country — to support cooperation with the United Nations as a model tool in the hands of Member States to implement the Organization's relevant decisions, resolutions and recommendations.

I would like in particular to commend the provision in the resolution by which the General Assembly expresses its satisfaction with continued cooperation between the United Nations and la Francophonie in the area of electoral assistance and monitoring. I should like to point out that 2011 will be a significant electoral year in my country. In line with the elections process, the Congolese people will once again be given an opportunity to speak in order to choose the men and women who will preside over their

future at the local, regional and national levels. The assistance and solidarity that the international community will extend to our people in that regard — from la Francophonie but first and foremost from the United Nations — will no doubt provide invaluable support in strictly abiding by our country's Constitution and laws.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Member States for the solidarity and assistance they continue to provide in resolving the many problems that my country continues to face.

La Francophonie is not just a group of countries that share the use of the French language. It is also a forum for solidarity and common understanding among peoples from different cultures who are linked by a common destiny and who share in both sadness and joy. It is against that backdrop that la Francophonie is increasingly involved in energy and sustainable development issues, efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and the question of biodiversity.

In that regard, la Francophonie provides our countries with support and advice in international negotiations on climate change, debt issues and economic and trade matters. In addition to areas in which it has traditionally been active, these new spheres of activity constitute additional elements of complementarity and convergence between la Francophonie and the United Nations.

The Francophone family has continued to grow throughout the years, adding four members during its thirteenth session. We are convinced that, as has been the case in other Francophone countries, cooperation between the United Nations and the International Organization of la Francophonie will contribute to the success of our electoral exercise.

The President (*spoke in French*): In accordance with resolution 33/18, of 10 November 1978, and decision 53/453, of 18 December 1998, I now call on the observer for the International Organization of la Francophonie.

Mr. Camara (International Organization of la Francophonie) (*spoke in French*): The privilege of taking the floor at the 74th plenary meeting, which is the first meeting of 2011, also provides me the distinct honour and great pleasure to convey to the General Assembly the best wishes of His Excellency Mr. Abdou Diouf, Secretary-General of the International Organization of la Francophonie, as well as my own best regards.

The Secretary-General of la Francophonie, who met you in Paris a few weeks ago, has asked me to reiterate his great appreciation for the exemplary and masterly manner in which you, Mr. President, are guiding the work of the sixty-fifth session. Your mastery of debate honours la Francophonie and its member States. Rarely is the French language — one of the two working and six official languages of the United Nations, as well as the umbilical cord of our community — heard in the Assembly's debates. Allow me in particular to convey the greetings and gratitude of President Diouf to His Excellency Mr. Ban Ki-moon.

I should also like to thank Switzerland. In its capacity as Chair of the Summit of heads of State and Government of la Francophonie, Switzerland ensured the success of the preparatory process and introduced the resolution that the Assembly has just adopted (resolution 65/263). I thank Ambassador Paul Seger for his willingness and dedication in taking responsibility for this issue.

I also wish to thank Ambassador Seger for drawing members' attention to the importance and relevance of the Montreux Declaration and the various resolutions on several areas of concern, including the Bamako Declaration on the Practices of Democracy, Rights and Freedoms in the French-speaking Community, which was adopted 10 years ago; crisis, post-crisis and peacebuilding situations in the Francophone community; the strengthening of cooperation between States in order to combat bogus and counterfeit medicines; bolstering international cooperation to fight transnational organized crime; combating piracy and terrorism; and taking advantage of such opportunities as innovative financing and sustainable tourism.

I am pleased that such concerns of the heads of State and Government of la Francophonie have garnered broad consensus in the General Assembly, thereby underscoring the fact that la Francophonie is a forum for harmonizing countries' efforts to common ends, as called for in the resolution just adopted.

According to a well-known saying in my country, counting one's friends in the village carries the risk of increasing one's enemies. As paradoxical as that may seem, I cannot fail to avail myself of this opportunity

to thank our main partners who directly and indirectly support the efforts of la Francophonie.

In that regard, I assure the Assembly that my gratitude is not intended to leave anyone out; it also includes all those who, although I have not thanked them directly, nevertheless merit our thanks. First and foremost, I wish to thank Mr. Ban Ki-moon for being accessible and for his promptness in responding to requests from la Francophonie. We also express our thanks for the availability of his main colleagues, both in his Office and in the principal Departments and Services dealing with la Francophonie.

I have been privileged to see them at work, but those present here have also been able to see for themselves the progress that Mr. Ban has made in learning the French language, to the point that he can now give interviews and hold conversations in French. I respectfully commend his fervent desire to learn, master and put into practice a language used by 72 Member States in order to build solidarity, establish a vision and carry out efforts. May the Secretary-General's determination spread to the many staff and senior officials of the United Nations in order that countries too may be united around that which most characterizes them, and which they hold most dear, namely, their language.

This desire to cooperate has facilitated and encouraged the numerous productive efforts undertaken jointly by the United Nations and la Francophonie — whether with regard to preventing or managing crises and conflicts; keeping or building the peace; promoting democracy and the rule of law through electoral assistance and monitoring; promoting rights and freedoms; mobilizing countries to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, especially in countries with the greatest needs; promoting and supporting sustainable development, renewable energy and biodiversity; or supporting cultural and linguistic diversity and promoting multilingualism. With regard to the latter, I wish to thank the Ambassador of the Democratic Republic of the Congo for demonstrating his multilingual abilities in celebrating the International Year of la Francophonie and all the other years devoted to other United Nations languages at the Assembly. In that way, la Francophonie and the United Nations have worked together closely in the French-speaking community, to the satisfaction of the States and Governments concerned.

The resolution that the Assembly has just adopted is the best example and acknowledgement of this exemplary cooperation. I note that it is also the outcome of numerous fruitful meetings and contacts between Mr. Ban Ki-moon and Mr. Abdou Diouf, as well as the result of the synergies and points of convergence that the staff and senior officials of our two organizations have identified as part of their respective programmes to build an effective and constructive partnership.

The course charted and pursued by our two Secretaries-General and the results that have been achieved and welcomed by the Assembly would not have been possible without the ongoing and resolute support of Francophone Ambassadors at the United Nations in New York, Geneva and Addis Ababa. Those representatives have succeeded in judiciously managing their respective national mandates to provide the essential collective support for the goals of la Francophonie in its relationship with the United Nations.

I should like to express my deep gratitude to the President, the members of the Bureau and those of the group of Francophone Ambassadors in New York for the support they extend to me in carrying out my duties.

I am also conscious of the interest shown by the Permanent Mission of the United States of America in the Permanent Observer Mission of la Francophonie. In that regard, I wish to thank the host country for the support and attention given to la Francophonie and its Permanent Observer.

I am also very grateful for the interest that the authorities of the State and City of New York have shown with regard to the observance of the International Day of la Francophonie, which is now an important cultural event in both the City and State of New York.

As part of his once national and current international responsibilities, President Abdou Diouf has always worked on behalf of men and women whom we do not often see. When a crowd of people gathered around him to express its affection and gratitude, President Diouf reserved his first words to courteously, amicably and sincerely express his own gratitude to the leaders, officials and staff of the secretariat of the Summit. I would like to emulate his gesture by expressing, on his behalf as well as my own, the same

wise words he used in order to say to each and every interpreter and translator and to every member of each of the language services that they are the bridge and channel that make it possible for the representatives of nations to communicate, understand each other and decide.

The President (*spoke in French*): May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of sub-item (l) of agenda item 122?

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 11.35 a.m.

United Nations A/65/PV.75

General Assembly
Sixty-fifth session

Official Records

75th plenary meeting
Friday, 28 January 2011, 10 a.m.
New York

President: Mr. Deiss ..... (Switzerland)

In the absence of the President, Mr. Kleib (Indonesia), Vice-President, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 10.20 a.m.

Agenda item 133 (*continued*)

Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations (A/65/691/Add.1)

The Acting President: Before proceeding to the items on the agenda, I should like, in keeping with established practice, to draw the attention of the General Assembly to document A/65/691/Add.1, in which the Secretary-General informs the President of the Assembly that, since the issuance of his communication contained in document A/65/691, Zimbabwe has made the necessary payment to reduce its arrears to below the amount specified in Article 19 of the Charter.

May I take it that the General Assembly takes due note of the information contained in document A/65/691/Add.1?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 69 (*continued*)

Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance

(a) Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations

Draft resolution (A/65/L.59)

The Acting President: Members will recall that, at its 66th and 67th plenary meetings, held on 15 December 2010, the Assembly considered agenda item 69 and its sub-items (a) to (d).

I now give the floor to the representative of Argentina to introduce draft resolution A/65/L.59.

Mr. Argüello (Argentina) (*spoke in Spanish*): I have the honour to address the General Assembly on behalf of the Group of 77 (G-77) and China to introduce the draft resolution contained in document A/65/L.59.

I would first like to express the gratitude of the Group of 77 and China to Mrs. Isaura Duarte-Rodríguez of Colombia, who successfully coordinated the negotiations on the draft resolution. I would also like to thank all delegations for their active participation in the negotiations. I am also pleased to announce that Mexico and Japan have become sponsors of the draft resolution.

(*spoke in English*)

As in previous sessions, the G-77 and China have this year submitted the draft resolution entitled "International cooperation on humanitarian assistance in the field of natural disasters, from relief to development".

The G-77 and China believe that humanitarian assistance should not only provide relief but also contribute to rebuilding the social fabric of affected

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populations, and that its sustainability after an emergency should be ensured. Emergency assistance must be provided in ways that will be supportive of recovery and long-term development.

Moreover, efforts to reduce disaster risks must be integrated into programmes for sustainable development, with a view to reducing poverty and achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

The massive losses of life and property caused by natural disasters in developing countries make clear the need to support their capacity-building efforts through international cooperation. In that regard, strengthened coordination among United Nations agencies and Governments would help to ensure a more efficient response to disasters, without duplication of efforts.

The Group of 77 and China reiterates its commitment to the guiding principles set forth in the annex to resolution 46/182, of 19 December 1991, as the framework for the provision of United Nations humanitarian assistance. Those principles, which include neutrality, humanity, impartiality and independence, should remain the basis for all responses to humanitarian emergencies. We also emphasize the primary role of the affected State in the initiation, coordination and implementation of humanitarian assistance.

Financial support is the backbone of humanitarian work. Therefore, strengthening both United Nations and non-United Nations funding mechanisms for humanitarian assistance and ensuring timely, predictable, adequate and flexible funding for emergencies arising from natural disasters are essential for effective responses. In that regard, we welcome the financial pledges made during the high-level conference on the Central Emergency Response Fund held in December 2010.

The Group engaged constructively during the negotiations on the draft resolution, integrating to the extent possible the different views and proposals expressed by our partners while trying to preserve the driving spirit of the draft resolution. We look forward to its adoption by consensus.

The Acting President: We shall now proceed to consider draft resolution A/65/L.59. Before giving the floor to the speaker in explanation of position, may I remind delegations that explanations are limited to 10 minutes and should be made by delegations from their seats.

Mr. Mercado (United States of America): The United States is pleased to again join the consensus on this year's draft resolution entitled "International cooperation on humanitarian assistance in the field of natural disasters, from relief to development" (A/65/L.59). We reaffirm the importance of international assistance in supporting the efforts of affected countries to overcome the impact of natural disasters.

We share the view that the international community should intensify efforts, not only by strengthening disaster preparedness activities to prevent or minimize the impact of natural disasters but also by developing and enhancing the national and local response capacities of countries affected by natural disasters and improving international coordination in the timely provision of humanitarian assistance.

We support the intent of paragraph 6, but would have preferred a revision to improve its accuracy and clarity. We have some concerns about language in the draft resolution, which states that global climate change, among other factors, contributes to the increase in intensity and frequency of natural disasters. We interpret the text in question to be intended to reflect the actual state of climate science, including that climate change may contribute to future increases in the frequency and/or intensity of weather-related hazards.

We would have preferred more technically accurate and precise language in the draft resolution, and hope to see more precise language in the future.

The Acting President: We have heard the only speaker in explanation of position.

The Assembly will now take a decision on draft resolution A/65/L.59, entitled "International cooperation on humanitarian assistance in the field of natural disasters, from relief to development". I give the floor to the representative of the Secretariat.

Mr. Botnaru (Department of General Assembly and Conference Management): I would like to announce that, since its issuance, the Russian Federation has become a sponsor of the draft resolution contained in document A/65/L.59.

The Acting President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to adopt draft resolution A/65/L.59?

Draft resolution A/65/L.59 was adopted (resolution 65/264).

The Acting President: The Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of sub-item (a) of agenda item 69.

Agenda item 113 (*continued*)

Appointments to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other appointments

(g) Appointment of a judge of the United Nations Appeals Tribunal

Memorandum by the Secretary-General (A/65/679)

The Acting President: As indicated in document A/65/679, the General Assembly is required, at its sixty-fifth session, to appoint a judge to the Appeals Tribunal to serve the remainder of the seven-year term of Judge Rose Boyko, which commenced on 1 July 2009. Judge Boyko resigned her position as judge of the Appeals Tribunal, effective 15 January 2011.

As also indicated in document A/65/679, in accordance with article 3 (2) of the statute of the Appeals Tribunal, its judges shall be appointed by the General Assembly on the recommendation of the Internal Justice Council in accordance with resolution 62/228, and no two judges shall be of the same nationality.

The names of the candidates recommended for appointment to the Appeals Tribunal are contained in document A/65/671.

In order to be eligible for appointment, article 3 (3) of the statute of the Appeals Tribunal requires that a person be of high moral character and possess at least 15 years of judicial experience in the field of administrative law, or the equivalent within one or more national jurisdictions.

In document A/65/679, it is proposed that the General Assembly proceed to appoint a judge of the Appeals Tribunal by way of an election, bearing in mind paragraph 58 of resolution 63/253, in which the Assembly invited Member States, when electing judges to the United Nations Dispute Tribunal and the United Nations Appeals Tribunal, to take due consideration of geographical distribution and gender balance.

If there is no objection, I shall take it that the General Assembly agrees to the proposal?

It was so decided.

The Acting President: Consistent with the practice of the General Assembly, the candidate who obtains the largest number of votes and a majority of the votes of those present and voting shall be considered elected, and thereby appointed by the Assembly to the Appeals Tribunal. Also, balloting shall continue, in accordance with the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, until one candidate has obtained, in one or more ballots, a majority of votes of the members present and voting. In the case of a tie vote, we will proceed to the drawing of lots in accordance with rule 93 of the rules of procedure.

May I take it that the General Assembly agrees to those procedures?

It was so decided.

The Acting President: The General Assembly will now proceed to the election of a judge of the United Nations Appeals Tribunal.

Only those candidates whose names appear on the ballot papers are eligible for election. Representatives are requested to indicate the candidate for whom they wish to vote by placing a cross to the left of the name of the candidate on the ballot paper. Each representative may vote for not more than one candidate.

The election will be held in accordance with the relevant rules of procedure of the General Assembly. Therefore, in accordance with rule 92 of the rules of procedure, the election shall be held by secret ballot and there shall be no nominations.

Before we begin the voting process, I should like to remind members that, pursuant to rule 88 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, no representative shall interrupt the voting except on a point of order on the actual conduct of the voting.

We shall now begin the voting process. Members are requested to remain seated until all ballots have been collected.

Ballot papers will now be distributed. May I request representatives to indicate the candidate for

whom they wish to vote by placing a cross to the left of the name of the candidate on the ballot paper?

May I also remind representatives that they may vote for not more than one candidate. A ballot will be declared invalid if more than one name is marked.

At the invitation of the Acting President, Ms. Molné Casajuana (Andorra), Mr. De Millo Terrazzani (Monaco), Ms. Kramberger Mendek (Slovenia), Mr. Manar Taleb (Syrian Arab Republic) and Mr. Kang'ombe (Zambia) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

The meeting was suspended at 10.50 a.m. and resumed at 11.15 a.m.

The Acting President: The result of the voting is as follows:

Number of ballot papers:	135
Number of invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	135
Abstentions:	1
Number of members voting:	134
Required majority:	68
Number of votes obtained:	
Ms. Mary Faherty (Ireland)	52
Mr. Brian Tamberlin (Australia)	48
Mr. Roy Lewis (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)	34

Since no candidate has obtained the required majority, the Assembly will proceed to a second round of balloting restricted to the two candidates who were not elected but obtained the largest number of votes in the ballot. In accordance with rule 93 of the rules of procedure, we shall therefore proceed to the first restricted ballot.

Before we begin the voting process, I should like to remind members that, pursuant to rule 88 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, no representative shall interrupt the voting except on a point of order on the actual conduct of the voting.

We shall now begin the voting process. Ballot papers will now be distributed. All candidates whose names appear on the ballot papers are eligible. May I request representatives to indicate the candidate for whom they wish to vote by placing a cross against his or her name on the ballot paper. May I also remind representatives that they may vote for not more than one candidate for appointment to the Appeals Tribunal. A ballot will be declared invalid if more than one name is marked. Votes may only be cast for those whose names appear on the ballot papers.

At the invitation of the President, Ms. Molné Casajuana (Andorra), Mr. De Millo Terrazzani (Monaco), Ms. Parado-Brillo (Philippines), Ms. Kramberger Mendek (Slovenia), Mr. Manar Taleb (Syrian Arab Republic) and Mr. Kang'ombe (Zambia) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

The meeting was suspended at 11.30 a.m. and resumed at 11.40 a.m.

The Acting President: The result of the voting is as follows:

Number of ballot papers:	134
Number of invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots	134
Abstentions:	2
Number of members voting:	132
Required majority:	67
Number of votes obtained:	
Ms. Mary Faherty (Ireland)	75
Mr. Brian Tamberlin (Australia)	57

Having obtained the required majority and the largest number of votes, Ms. Mary Faherty (Ireland) was elected a judge of the United Nations Appeals Tribunal for a term of office beginning on 28 January 2011 and ending on 30 June 2016.

The Acting President: I take this opportunity to extend to Judge Flaherty the congratulations of the Assembly on her appointment and to thank the tellers for their efforts.

The General Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of sub-item (g) of agenda item 113.

The meeting rose at 11.45 a.m.

United Nations A/65/PV.76

General Assembly

Official Records

Sixty-fifth session

76th plenary meeting
Tuesday, 1 March 2011, 15 p.m.
New York

President: Mr. Deiss ..... (Switzerland)

The meeting was called to order at 3.05 p.m.

Agenda item 133 (*continued*)

Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations (A/65/691/Add.2, A/65/691/Add.3, A/65/691/Add.4, A/65/691/Add.5 and A/65/691/Add.6)

The President (*spoke in French*): In keeping with established practice, I should like to draw the attention of the General Assembly to documents A/65/691/Add.2, A/65/691/Add.3, A/65/691/Add.4, A/65/691/Add.5 and A/65/691/Add.6, in which the Secretary-General informs the President of the General Assembly that, since the issuance of his communication contained in document A/65/691/Add.1, Nepal, Palau, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Tonga have made the necessary payments to reduce their arrears below the amount specified in Article 19 of the Charter.

May I take it that the General Assembly duly takes note of the information contained in those documents?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 117 (*continued*)

Implementation of the resolutions of the United Nations

Draft resolution (A/65/L.60)

The President (*spoke in French*): Members will recall that the General Assembly considered this item, in a joint debate with agenda item 118 on the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly, at its 56th plenary meeting, on 6 December 2010.

Members will also recall that at the 72nd plenary meeting of its sixtieth session, held on 15 March 2006, the General Assembly adopted resolution 60/251, by which it established the Human Rights Council as a subsidiary organ of the General Assembly. Paragraph 8 of resolution 60/251 provides that:

> "the General Assembly, by a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting, may suspend the rights of membership in the [Human Rights] Council of a member of the Council".

We are gathered this afternoon to consider a serious matter. Several members of the General Assembly have introduced draft resolution A/65/L.60, proposing, owing to the human rights situation in Libya, the suspension of that country's rights of membership in the Human Rights Council. We also take note of the recommendation made in that regard by the Human Rights Council at its special session on 25 February on Libya.

The events that have been shaking the Arab world for several weeks remind us that there can be neither security nor development unless human rights are respected. The credibility of the international community, the General Assembly, the Security

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room U-506. Corrections will be issued after the end of the session in a consolidated corrigendum.

Council and the Human Rights Council is at stake in ensuring that such rights are respected and their violations punished.

Yesterday, Monday, 28 February, I addressed the Human Rights Council at the opening of its sixteenth session. There, I recalled the importance of a strong Council, whose members are committed to strengthening the protection and promotion of human rights by virtue of example, by upholding the highest standards and by prohibiting double standards.

The fact that the Council held an emergency special session on Libya last Friday and adopted by consensus resolution S-15/1 on the human rights situation in that country sends an important signal. The situation in Libya is deeply disturbing. Failure to consider that issue would have entailed a considerable loss of credibility for the United Nations and the Human Rights Council.

Today, it is up to us, the General Assembly, to do our part. We must show unity and resolve in our determination to uphold the fundamental values of the Charter. That is our duty to all men and women who hope and struggle to have their rights respected and who today run the greatest risks. Their aspirations must not be dashed. I trust that our debate this afternoon will reflect that imperative and that we will prove that the General Assembly is a strong instrument in the service of peace, security and prosperity.

I now give the floor to the Secretary-General, His Excellency Mr. Ban Ki-moon.

The Secretary-General: I welcome this opportunity to brief the General Assembly on the latest developments in Libya. We meet today to consider a crisis marked by ongoing violence, amid a growing humanitarian emergency and a political situation that could quickly deteriorate further.

Meeting in emergency session over the weekend, the Security Council acted with unanimity and decisiveness. I also welcome the strong statements of many international leaders and organizations, including the League of Arab States, the African Union, the Organization of the Islamic Conference and the European Union. The world has spoken with one voice. We demand an immediate end to the violence against civilians and full respect for their fundamental human rights, including those of peaceful assembly and free speech.

I welcome, too, the recommendation of the Human Rights Council to suspend Libya's membership as long as the violence continues. I fully support the Council's decision to urgently dispatch an independent international commission of inquiry to investigate alleged violations of international human rights in Libya. In that spirit, I also commend the Security Council's decision to refer the situation in Libya to the International Criminal Court.

Together, those actions send a strong and important message, of great consequence within the region and beyond, that there is no impunity, that those who commit crimes against humanity will be punished, and that the fundamental principles of justice and accountability shall prevail. Today, I urge the General Assembly to act decisively, as well.

The latest reports from the ground are sobering. I am gravely concerned about the continued loss of life, the ongoing repression of the population and the clear incitement to violence against the civilian population by Colonel Al-Qadhafi and his supporters. Arms depots and arsenals have reportedly been opened to gangs, which are terrorizing communities. There are reports that Government forces have fired indiscriminately on peaceful protesters and bombed military bases in the east of the country. In the west, there are reports of ongoing and serious clashes between Government forces and armed opponents.

The death toll from nearly two weeks of violence is unknown, but is likely to exceed 1,000, as I reported to the Security Council on Friday (see S/PV.6490). Thousands have been injured. Credible and consistent reports include allegations of extrajudicial killings, arbitrary arrests, detention and torture.

While more members of the military are reportedly abandoning the regime and joining the demonstrations, Colonel Al-Qadhafi and his supporters appear to have a tight grip on western parts of the country, chiefly in Tripoli and neighbouring areas. According to some accounts, the Government is also deploying forces along the Tunisian border. Armed protesters have taken control of several cities near Tripoli, including Zawiyah and Misratah.

However, violent clashes are reported in and around Zawiyah, where Libyan tanks and armoured cars attempting to break into the city have been repelled by opposition fighters. Government forces are reportedly mounting or preparing attacks on Misratah.

Opposition forces in the east appear to be organizing themselves for possible attacks. In the eastern city of Benghazi, a transitional national council has been established, led by the former Justice Minister.

There are serious indications of a growing crisis of refugees and displaced persons. The violence could disrupt distribution networks and lead to food shortages. The main humanitarian concerns at the moment relate to the west of the country, where access and information are extremely limited. Civilians continue to flee. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) is present at the Tunisian and Egyptian borders, where more than 110,000 people have crossed so far and thousands more arrive by the hour.

UNHCR is particularly concerned that thousands of refugees and other foreigners may be trapped in Libya. In addition, the International Organization for Migration estimates that there are 1.5 million irregular migrant workers in the country, mostly from Africa and Asia. Significant efforts are under way to facilitate the return of those stranded migrants to their home countries. UNHCR has appealed to all neighbouring Governments in North Africa and Europe to maintain open land, air and sea borders for people fleeing the country. As I told the Security Council last week, it is essential that all those seeking to leave Libya be allowed to do so, without discrimination and irrespective of their nationality.

All international United Nations staff were evacuated two days ago. Our operations will continue from a secondary location, posing a major challenge to the coordination of international humanitarian assistance. In these difficult and unpredictable circumstances, it is critical that the international community remain united. In Washington, D.C., yesterday, I held in-depth consultations with President Obama of the United States and will have similar conversations with other world and regional leaders over the coming days.

Our collective challenge will be to provide real protection for the people of Libya — first, to halt the violence and, second, to deal with the growing humanitarian emergency. The arms embargo, travel ban and assets freeze imposed by Security Council resolution 1970 (2011) must be swiftly and effectively enforced. We need concrete action on the ground to provide humanitarian and medical assistance. Time is of the essence. Thousands of lives are at stake.

In the days ahead, United Nations assessment teams will deploy to organize our humanitarian response, working on the ground where they can in the eastern and western regions of Libya. In the coming days, I will also bring together the heads of United Nations humanitarian agencies and programmes, as well as other international and regional groups, including in particular the League of Arab States, the African Union and the Organization of the Islamic Conference.

As I have said, our most immediate priority must be providing urgent humanitarian relief — food, water, sanitation and shelter — to the thousands on both sides of the Tunisian and Egyptian borders. We must also find ways to expedite the return home of the many guest workers and foreign nationals who find themselves stranded and vulnerable. Within the week, I am planning to appoint a special envoy, who will work closely with regional Governments and the international community to coordinate our rapid and effective response.

From the beginning of the crisis, I have called on the Libyan leadership to hear and heed our strong collective call to end the violence and to respect the human rights and the legitimate aspirations of the Libyan people. The transition to a new democratic system of governance should start now.

The winds of change are sweeping the Middle East and North Africa. From Tunisia to Egypt, Bahrain to Yemen and beyond, the region's people are demanding new rights and new freedoms. The international community must stand firm. The United Nations Charter is very clear; it is our collective duty to stand for human rights, social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom.

Equally important is the fact that for much of their history the societies of this region have been victims of outside interference in their daily lives and cultures. Today, as they strive to create a new future, it is imperative that the international community recognize that change must come from within. Above all, that means local ownership and local leadership, consistent with popular aspirations for dignity and justice.

In that great and noble quest, the United Nations stands ready to assist in every way possible should the people of the region and their Governments request our help. Beyond immediate humanitarian needs, that assistance could take many forms, from technical support in organizing elections to drafting new constitutions. And let us remember that, ultimately, the answer to many of the region's most pressing challenges is economic and social development. That is where the United Nations and its international partners can help most of all — in education, women's empowerment, social and economic advancement, job creation and youth opportunities.

My Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Mr. Pascoe, was in Egypt last weekend and conveyed that message to the authorities and the various stakeholders with whom he met. The same is true in Tunisia, to which I have sent a mission this week to explore the possible assistance that the United Nations could provide. In my talks with the region's leaders in every country, I have consistently urged restraint, open and inclusive dialogue and, above all, respect for the people's aspirations in their fullest expression.

The President (*spoke in French*): I thank the Secretary-General for his statement.

The Assembly has before it a draft resolution entitled "Suspension of the rights of membership of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya in the Human Rights Council", issued as document A/65/L.60.

I give the floor to the representative of Lebanon to introduce draft resolution A/65/L.60.

Mr. Salam (Lebanon): It is an honour to address the General Assembly today under agenda item 117 and to introduce, on behalf of a number of Arab and African States, draft resolution A/65/L.60, entitled "Suspension of the rights of membership of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya in the Human Rights Council".

Time is of the essence today, as demonstrated by the extensive violence and killings endured by the Libyan people over the past few weeks, which we have all been keenly following. Regional organizations took action last week, setting the stage for the initiative put before the Assembly today. On 22 February, the Council of the League of Arab States issued a statement condemning the crimes perpetrated against peaceful demonstrators. The African Union also issued a statement, on 23 February, condemning the arbitrary and excessive violence used against the Libyan people.

However, the condemnation has all but been confined to regional actors. The Human Rights Council last week adopted resolution A/HRC/S-15/2, recommending that the General Assembly suspend the rights of membership of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya in that Council. The Security Council also unanimously adopted resolution 1970 (2011) on Saturday to help put an end to the crimes being committed in Libya as we speak. Draft resolution A/65/L.60 was introduced by Botswana, Gabon, Jordan, Lebanon, Nigeria and Qatar. It is our hope that it will empower the General Assembly to pursue an immediate halt to the suffering of our Libyan brothers.

We have been in constant touch with our fellow delegations to share the nature of the draft resolution and its objectives. The draft resolution is in essence of a procedural nature and is in line with the recommendation of the Human Rights Council pursuant to paragraph 8 of resolution 60/251 of 2006. The countries that presented the draft resolution underline that the proposed suspension is an exceptional and temporary procedure. To that end, paragraph 2 includes a mechanism to review the proposed suspension, as appropriate and in due time, which we hope will be very soon.

Let us now rise to the hopes and aspirations of the Libyan people by adopting the draft resolution by consensus, hopefully today. Finally, allow me to address a message of solidarity and deep respect to the courageous Libyan people. We extend our sincerest condolences to the families of the fallen.

The President (*spoke in French*): The Assembly shall now proceed to consider draft resolution A/65/L.60.

Before giving the floor to speakers in explanation of vote before the voting, may I remind delegations that explanations of vote are limited to 10 minutes and should be made by delegations from their seats.

Mr. Soborun (Mauritius): I am making this statement on behalf of the African Group to express our deep concern about the current situation in Libya and our support for draft resolution A/65/L.60.

In that regard, we recall the communiqué issued following the 261st meeting of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union, held on 23 February, in

which the Council strongly condemned the indiscriminate and excessive use of force and lethal weapons against peaceful protestors, in violation of human rights and international humanitarian law, which continues to contribute to the loss of human life and the destruction of property. The African Union Peace and Security Council further underscored that the aspirations of the people of Libya for democracy, political reform, justice and socio-economic development were legitimate and urged that they be respected.

The African Group at the Human Rights Council supported the adoption, on 25 February, of resolution A/HRC/S-15/2 on the situation of human rights in Libya in the conviction that the rights to freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and freedom of association were provided for both in articles 19, 21 and 22 of the United Nations Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and in articles 9, 10 and 11 of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, adopted in 1981.

The international community must send a strong message to those who are responsible for violence against the Libyan people and to the people of Libya, who are expressing their legitimate aspirations, that it is not indifferent to gross and systematic violations of human rights and that it respects the right of peaceful demonstrators to express their legitimate aspirations.

Each Member State has a duty to protect and safeguard all universally recognized human rights and fundamental freedoms, but members of the Human Rights Council have a particular duty to act on behalf of the international community in ensuring the promotion and protection of human rights. Consequently, the African Group, while joining in the consensus on the draft resolution, stresses that the decision taken with respect to the exceptional circumstances in Libya does not call into question the sovereign right of States elected to the various organs of the United Nations to fulfil their mandate.

The African Group supports the call of the Security Council on Member States, working together and acting in cooperation with the Secretary-General, to facilitate and sustain the return of humanitarian agencies and make available humanitarian and related assistance in Libya. At this time, our main concern is the safety and well-being of the people of Libya and foreign nationals in the country. Our hope is that the strong resolve of the international community will persuade the Libyan authorities to act with the utmost restraint and respect all universally recognized human rights and fundamental freedoms. We are also hopeful that the Security Council, the General Assembly and the Human Rights Council will keep the situation in Libya under review and will reconsider their decisions in the light of developing circumstances.

I wish to conclude by concurring with the statement made on behalf of the African Group at the Human Rights Council meeting on 25 February:

> "[J]ust as the international community remained united in its condemnation of the human rights situation in Libya, so also must it unite in helping Libya surmount its challenges."

The President (*spoke in French*): We have heard the last speaker in explanation of vote before the voting.

I now give the floor to the representative of Gabon on a point of order.

Mrs. Bibalou (Gabon) (*spoke in French*): Gabon respects universally recognized human rights and fundamental freedoms. Gabon associates itself with the statement made by the Permanent Representative of Mauritius on behalf of the African Union. My country supports draft resolution A/65/L.60, but is not a sponsor.

The President (*spoke in French*): The Assembly will now take a decision on draft resolution A/65/L.60, entitled "Suspension of the rights of membership of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya in the Human Rights Council". I give the floor to the representative of the Secretariat.

Mr. Botnaru (Department for General Assembly and Conference Management): I should like to announce that, since the introduction of draft resolution A/65/L.60, the following countries have joined as sponsors: Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Latvia, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Maldives, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Peru, Poland, Portugal, the Republic

of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Senegal, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and Uruguay.

The President (*spoke in French*): May I take it that the Assembly wishes to adopt draft resolution A/65/L.60?

Draft resolution A/65/L.60 was adopted (resolution 65/265).

The President (*spoke in French*): I now give the floor to those representatives who wish to speak in explanation of position on the resolution just adopted. May I remind delegations that explanations of vote or position are limited to 10 minutes and should be made by delegations from their seats.

Mr. Valero Briceño (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) (*spoke in Spanish*): The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela expresses its deep regret over recent events in Libya and laments the loss of human lives in that brotherly country.

Venezuela is historically linked to the Arab and African worlds. Our roots are nourished by those ancient cultures, which have greatly contributed to the forging of human relations on the basis on peace, solidarity and justice. The Venezuelan people stand with the Libyan people in the struggle for national liberation and the self-determination of peoples and in forging solidarity among the countries of the South. The free Libyan people must define their own destiny without foreign interference. Sovereign peoples are the only protagonists of history, and no foreign force is authorized to intervene in the internal affairs of the Libyan nation.

We commend the efforts of friendly countries members of the Security Council to prevent resolution 1970 (2011) from becoming an instrument for war. That resolution should not be interpreted beyond the objective of preserving the sovereign unity and territorial integrity of Libya. We urge peace-loving countries in all regions of the world to stop the plans to invade Libya that were unashamedly announced by the Department of State and the Pentagon of the United States. The aim of such plans is clear — to appropriate the vast potential of natural resources and strategic and energy wealth of the motherland of Libya.

According to the Agence France Presse news agency, the Pentagon stated that "the United States army is repositioning military forces around Libya". However, the Security Council resolution has not authorized military intervention. Nevertheless, an imperialist country is unilaterally and visibly deploying its military machinery to carry out armed aggression against Libya. In today's edition, the Spanish newspaper *El País* states: "Obama proposes establishing a no-fly zone to the United Nations. The United States mobilizes naval forces towards Libya for a possible intervention."

Venezuela calls for the rejection of that warmongering mobilization of the United States air and naval forces in the Mediterranean Sea. Those who promote the use of military force against Libya seek not to defend human rights, but to establish a protectorate to violate them, as they have always done, in one of the largest sources of oil and energy in the Middle East region.

Secessionist manoeuvres have a long history, and very recent experiences confirm that it is one of the tactics used by the imperialist Powers, inciting divisions on ethnic, religious or any grounds and the fragmentation of nations, which, in general, leads to fratricidal wars that tend to be used in order to justify foreign invasion.

We are convinced that the Libyan, Arab, African and all peace-loving peoples in all corners of the world will reject the military occupation of Libya. We reiterate our condemnation of violence, imperialism and interventionism. We urge the countries represented here to help preserve the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Libya. We deplore the double standard applied to human rights by imperialist countries.

The death of one human being is painful. The deaths of hundreds of people in Libya are painful. Also painful are the deaths of thousands of human beings who endure imperialist military invasions. We hail the Arab peoples who are in the process of a peaceful and justified rebellion and who seek a better future on the path of peace.

It is time for diplomacy for peace, not war. It is time for dialogue, not violence. The United Nations

exists to promote peace and understanding, not to promote the logic of war. We must not permit the dynamics of death and the logic of annihilation to develop in Libya and to prevail among brothers and sisters of the same nation.

President Hugo Chávez Frías yesterday proposed the establishment of a goodwill international commission to seek peace in Libya. It is necessary to promote immediately a dialogue between the Government of Muammar Al-Qadhafi and the opposition forces in order to achieve understanding and reconciliation for the Libyan people.

The President (*spoke in French*): The 10 minutes allotted to statements in explanation of vote have elapsed and I would ask the representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to conclude.

Mr. Valero Briceño (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) (*spoke in Spanish*): We implore almighty God to ensure that the African Union, the League of Arab States, the Organization of the Islamic Conference, the Non-Aligned Movement, the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America and the Union of South American Nations will urgently devote themselves to work for peace in that country.

Allow me to conclude by asking: Who will pay for the more than 1 million deaths in Iraq? Who will pay for the ongoing massacre against the Palestinian people? Why have confessed authors of such war crimes, genocide and crimes against humanity not stood before the International Criminal Court? What action has the Security Council taken with respect to these horrendous massacres, which continue with impunity?

Finally, we wish to state for the record that the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela has reservations with respect to the contents of paragraph 1 of resolution 65/265, which was just adopted by this General Assembly and pursuant to which it decides to suspend the membership rights of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya in the Human Rights Council. Such a decision may take place only following an objective and credible investigation to confirm the veracity of events. No country can be condemned a priori. We consider this decision to be precipitous, as it was taken without awaiting the results of the investigation to be carried out by the independent international commission of inquiry designated by the Human Rights Council pursuant to its resolution S-15/1 of 25 February.

The President (*spoke in French*): We have heard the only speaker in explanation of position.

I now call on delegations wishing to make general statements following the adoption of resolution 65/265.

Ms. Rice (United States of America): For the first time ever, the General Assembly has suspended a member of the Human Rights Council. This is a harsh rebuke, but one that Libya's leaders have brought down upon themselves. The United States continues to be appalled by the situation in Libya, and our thoughts and prayers are with the families of the Libyans who have been killed.

The General Assembly has come together to speak with one voice to Libya's unrepentant rulers. This unprecedented action sends another clear warning to Mr. Al-Qadhafi and those who still stand by him. They must stop the killing. When the only way a leader can cling to power is by grossly and systematically violating his own people's human rights, he has lost any legitimacy to rule. He must go and he must go now.

The protests in Libya are being driven by the people of Libya. This is about the universal human rights of the Libyan people and all people, and about a regime that has failed to meet its responsibility to protect its own population. The United States was pleased to be a co-sponsor of resolution 65/265, along with partners from all regions of the world, which underscores the universality of this decision and the depth of our commitment to the human rights we all share.

I must add that the United States utterly rejects the wilful and ugly distortion by the Venezuelan delegation of United States policy and posture. At a time when this Assembly is acting in unison in support of the Libyan people, it is shameful that one Member State, whose own reprehensible record speaks for itself, would manipulate this occasion to spread lies, foster fear and sow hate.

The General Assembly today has, by contrast, acted in the noblest traditions of the United Nations and made it clear that Governments that turn their guns on their own people have no place on the Human Rights Council. Membership on the Human Rights Council should be earned through respect for human rights and not accorded to those who abuse them. We

hope that we can work together to build on today's united, bold and principled action to defend universal human rights across the United Nations system. We applaud the members of the General Assembly for taking this historic decision.

Mr. Kőrösi (Hungary) (*spoke in Arabic*): I would like to begin my statement in Arabic as an expression of our solidarity with and deep respect for the people of Libya who are now struggling in their own land for freedom, their basic rights and their human rights. I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union (EU).

(*spoke in English*)

The candidate countries Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Iceland and Montenegro; and the countries of the Stabilization and Association Process and potential candidates Albania, Serbia, the Republic of Moldova and Georgia align themselves with this declaration.

The massive and shocking violence against peaceful demonstrators and other civilians in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya requires a clear response from the international community. As part of this response, the General Assembly today adopted resolution 65/265. Indeed, today's decision was made possible by the mobilization of countries from all regions. The international community has spoken with one voice.

This action has shown that, in moments of gravest need, Member States can find unity across the lines that so often divide this Assembly. Last Friday's special session of the Human Rights Council concluded with a strong consensus on forming an independent international commission of inquiry and recommending that the General Assembly suspend Libya's rights of membership in the Council.

The EU congratulates Botswana, Jordan, Lebanon, Nigeria and Qatar for taking the initiative to transform the Human Rights Council recommendation into the necessary General Assembly resolution. These countries have shown great leadership. They have responded with the sense of urgency that the situation demands. Their initiative has the full support of the European Union.

The EU therefore warmly welcomes the adoption today of resolution 65/265 by the General Assembly. This is the right response to the seriousness of the situation on the ground — the use of live ammunition and heavy weaponry against peaceful demonstrators exercising their right to freedom of assembly; the ongoing violent repression of civilians; and the suppression of freedom of expression through the blocking of electronic communications.

The urgency and extreme severity of the situation have been underlined by the Security Council, the Organization of the Islamic Conference, the African Union, the League of Arab States, various United Nations Special Rapporteurs, the EU itself and a wide range of international actors. In particular, the High Commissioner for Human Rights has recalled that each State has an obligation to protect the rights to life, liberty and security of the person. The EU fully supports this position and recalls moreover that the 2005 World Summit Outcome document (resolution 60/1) reaffirmed that each individual State has the responsibility to protect its population from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity, and that the international community, through the United Nations, has the responsibility to act should the national authorities fail to fulfil their duty.

The General Assembly cannot remain silent in the face of the shocking events taking place now in Libya. Upon its election to the Council last May, Libya pledged full commitment to all its human rights obligations. Unfortunately, these pledges have been blatantly violated. Membership in the Council indeed carries certain duties and obligations. Under resolution 60/251, United Nations Members elected to the Council are required to uphold the highest standards in the promotion and protection of human rights and to fully cooperate with the Council. Resolution 60/251 also foresees the possibility of suspending the rights of membership in the Council of a member of the Council that commits gross and systematic violations of human rights. The General Assembly has therefore simply made use of the available instruments foreseen at the time of the Human Rights Council's creation.

Today's decision is in no way a punishment of the people of Libya. On the contrary, it is a resounding message of solidarity with them and of extreme concern for their plight. The EU, of course, stands ready to re-examine in the General Assembly the question of the membership rights of Libyan Arab Jamahiriya in the Human Rights Council on the basis of the evolution of the situation, and hopes that future

events will soon allow us to reinstate Libya's full membership.

Meanwhile, much remains to be done by the United Nations and the international community to protect the Libyan population, to address the humanitarian needs created by the violence and unrest, to allow all foreigners in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to be safely evacuated, to investigate responsibilities for the ongoing crimes and to hold perpetrators fully accountable. In this regard, the Security Council showed great decisiveness on Saturday in adopting unanimously a strong resolution (resolution 1970 (2011)) with important mandatory measures, such as the arms embargo, a travel ban and a freeze of the assets of those responsible, as well as the referral to the prosecutor of the International Criminal Court of the situation in Libya.

Equally today, the General Assembly, the universal voice of the United Nations membership, has taken determined action and used the instruments at its disposal to send a powerful message to the world.

Mr. Heller (Mexico) (*spoke in Spanish*): The Government of Mexico reiterates its energetic condemnation of the violence that has been used in Libya to repress peaceful demonstrations, as well as the extrajudicial executions, indiscriminate attacks on the population, and grave and systematic violations of human rights in that country. Full respect for human rights is an obligation that cannot be renounced by the authorities. At all times and in any circumstances, the Government of Libya is obligated to protect the population on its territory.

The responsibility to protect human rights is universal and knows no borders. States members of the Human Rights Council have a commitment and a duty to strictly observe human rights norms; that is a responsibility that they assume in joining the Council. That is why the situation in Libya is a source of even greater concern. Given the gravity of events, Mexico believed that it was absolutely necessary to preserve the Council's integrity and to support the General Assembly's recommendation that Libya's membership in the Human Rights Council be suspended until the situation there is stabilized, human rights are fully respected, and the rule of law is restored. For the first time, the General Assembly has acted in full implementation of the letter and spirit of resolution 60/251, thereby ensuring that the international system for protecting human rights remains credible.

Finally, I wish to thank those countries of the African and Arab Groups that have demonstrated their commitment to human rights in presenting the important resolution 65/265, of which Mexico has become a co-sponsor.

Mr. Salam (Lebanon) (*spoke in Arabic*): It was an honour for my country to sponsor resolution 65/265, adopted today. It did so for various reasons, foremost of which is the fact that Lebanon was among those countries that laid the foundations of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by participating in the work of the committee mandated by the General Assembly to draft the Declaration. Having suffered war and violence for many years, my country is endowed with a Constitution that declares its commitment to the Declaration.

As we witness the numerous flagrant violations of human rights taking place in Libya today, we must recall that such violations have occurred for many years. The most blatant of these was the crime committed in 1978, when the national and spiritual leader of Lebanon, Imam Musa al-Sadr, and his two companions were kidnapped and disappeared. He was a man of dialogue who spoke up for freedom and the values of human rights.

Finally, the matter before us today demonstrates to all who may have any lingering doubts that human rights are a universal issue in which no person, religion, culture or region of the world enjoys precedence over any other.

The President (*spoke in French*): As there remain 23 speakers on my list, I now declare the list of speakers to be closed.

Mr. Cabactulan (Philippines): At the outset, the Philippines expresses its profound appreciation to you, Sir, for convening this important and timely meeting on the situation in Libya.

As I have stressed on several occasions, in our highly interdependent and networked world, geographic distance and remoteness no longer isolate countries and regions from developments in other countries and regions. The ongoing tension and conflict in Libya, if not resolved peacefully and quickly, could adversely affect the entire region — indeed, the world — given the tendency of conflicts and volatile

situations in one country or region to spill over to others. As Libya plunges into more chaos, even distant countries like the Philippines are not immune to such upheavals. In addition to the internally displaced population in Libya, the ubiquity of citizens of third-party States there demands that the international community ensure their security and welfare. The Philippines calls upon Member States in a position to do so to allow access and provide safe passage to citizens of third-party States who are fleeing the situation in Libya.

The Philippines and Libya have strong and vibrant bilateral ties. It is for that reason that the Philippines is deeply concerned about the situation of a close friend. We hope and pray that the bloodshed and violence in Libya will soon end and that peace and stability will once again reign in that country. At stake for the Philippines are the security and well-being of around 26,000 Filipino nationals in Libya. As we speak, my Government is doing its best to ensure the safety and welfare of Filipino nationals there and is exerting the utmost effort to evacuate them to safer ground. In that regard, I wish to take this opportunity to thank Tunisia, Egypt, Malta, Greece and Turkey, as well the other Mediterranean countries that have allowed safe passage to Filipinos who are transiting their territories in order to return to their homeland.

The United Nations and the international community have an inescapable responsibility to extend whatever assistance can be offered to the Libyan people during this time of emergency and cataclysmic change. The stakes are high not only for Libya but also for the entire world. The time-tested tools of diplomacy and peaceful dialogue between contending parties must be harnessed and reinforced with vigour. A military solution will only cause more tragedy and hardship for the Libyan people.

The Philippines expresses its solidarity with the people of Libya. As a country that experienced a peaceful political transition 25 years ago through a people's power revolution, the Philippines knows the high price and tremendous sacrifice exacted by achieving political freedom, economic liberties and justice in a non-violent way. The road to democracy is a long and arduous process, studded with barriers and obstacles. But in the end the beacon of democracy will not be extinguished and will continue to inspire oppressed peoples around the world who are determined to free themselves.

Mr. McNee (Canada): Canada joins other speakers in applauding the adoption of resolution 65/265, which suspends the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya's rights of membership in the Human Rights Council. Canada joins the rest of the international community in expressing our outrage at the appalling images from Libya of the Al-Qadhafi regime's brutal attacks against its own people. The world cannot stand by idly as Al-Qadhafi and the members of his family threaten to spill even more innocent blood in their attempt to retain power.

To continue to allow the Al-Qadhafi regime a voice in the Human Rights Council would be an affront not only to the people of Libya, who have risen up to demand freedom, democracy, human rights and the rule of law, but also to the entire international community, which looks to the Human Rights Council as the principal body of the United Nations for promoting and protecting human rights and for addressing situations where violations occur.

It was for situations such as this that the General Assembly provided for the possibility of the suspension of membership rights in the Human Rights Council in resolution 60/251. The failure to act in the face of the gross and systematic violations of human rights that are taking place in Libya would have seriously undermined the credibility of the Human Rights Council and the General Assembly. Canada is therefore pleased that the Assembly, a body of universal membership, was able to respond so swiftly today.

Ms. Hussain (Maldives): On 25 February, the Human Rights Council took a historic step and recommended that Libya's membership in the Council be suspended because of its gross and systematic violations of human rights (see A/HRC/S-15/2). A day later, the Security Council built on that with its own resolution 1970 (2011), imposing sanctions and embargoes on the regime. Today the General Assembly has taken action to suspend Libya's membership rights in the Human Rights Council. Those decisions, while important steps, are not enough to save the many lives that are being lost as we speak here. Firm decisions and actions must be taken against such violations of the rights of innocent citizens.

The Maldives strongly condemns the violence unleashed by the Libyan authorities against their own people — people who are merely trying to assert their

universal rights to freedom of expression and association and to democratically choose their own Government. It is clear that gross and systematic violations of human rights have been perpetrated in Libya and that, in all likelihood, they constitute crimes against humanity. It is evident that the Libyan dictatorship has no intention of upholding its principal responsibility to protect its people. It is therefore the duty of the international community to intervene. We, the community of nations, have a clear and unambiguous responsibility to protect innocent men, women and children in Libya; to remove Muammar Al-Qadhafi and his allies from power and hold them accountable for their crimes; and to help build a new democratic country.

The Maldives, a fellow Muslim country responding to the calls of our brothers and sisters in Libya, commends all Member States of this body for the adoption of resolution 65/265. Today's action in the General Assembly must be followed by the continued commitment and unfailing urgent action on the part of the international community.

Mr. Osorio (Colombia) (*spoke in Spanish*): The world is currently witnessing one of the most shameful and reprehensible events of recent years: a dictatorial regime's violent repression of its own people and a flagrant violation of human rights. The United Nations system has reacted with the speed and urgency that the situation requires. The Security Council, after calling for a return to common sense and the peaceful management of popular protests, which was ignored by the Libyan authorities, unanimously adopted resolution 1970 (2011) to impose sanctions and refer the situation in Libya to the International Criminal Court to establish responsibility for the crimes committed.

Colombia reiterates the urgency of ending the violence and demands that the Libyan authorities comply strictly with their international obligations and with international humanitarian law. We reject unequivocally incitements from official quarters and condemn the violations of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of the Libyan people. The State should assume its primary responsibility of guaranteeing the security and rights of its citizens, including the right to life and freedom of expression and peaceful assembly.

Colombia has maintained a firm and consistent position in all the forums that have addressed this situation. We were a sponsor of the Human Rights Security Council resolution, which established an international commission of inquiry into the violations committed in Libya and recommended suspending Libya's membership in the Human Rights Council. In addition to that resolution, we also sponsored resolution 65/265, in which the Assembly decided to suspend Libya's membership in the Human Rights Council.

The aspiration of the people of Libya to live in a more fair and equitable society, in which its citizens can fully enjoy their rights and fundamental freedoms, is legitimate. Reconciliation will require identifying responsibilities, addressing impunity and ensuring that those who are committing or have committed crimes against humanity are brought to justice. The international community must remain united and vigilant and continue to take measures that will put an end to the violations being committed by the repressive regime of Libya.

Mr. Errázuriz (Chile) (*spoke in Spanish*): The serious events unfolding in Libya and the unacceptable repression being exercised by the Government of Colonel Al-Qadhafi, which Chile has expressly condemned, have brought us here together today to decide on the suspension of Libya's rights as a member of the Human Rights Council, pursuant to the power set forth in paragraph 8 of resolution 60/251, which created the Human Rights Council.

Human rights are universal, indivisible, interrelated, interdependent and mutually reinforcing. The disproportionate and brutal reaction of the Government of Tripoli to its people's protests demanding the legitimate right to reform is completely unacceptable on the part of any Member State, and all the more so on the part of a member of the Human Rights Council. Libya, moreover, has been seriously deficient in its responsibility to protect its civilian population. We should be particularly concerned about the situation of women and children in that country.

Resolution 60/251, which established the Human Rights Council, sets forth in paragraph 9 that members of the Council should "uphold the highest standards in the promotion and protection of human rights". Clearly, this is not the case with respect to Libya.

Chile, as a member of the Human Rights Council, co-sponsored resolution S-15/1, which was adopted on Friday by the Council, and the resolution that was

recently adopted by the Assembly. It supported both because the promotion and defence of human rights is one of the pillars of Chile's foreign and domestic policy, and because it is strongly committed to this Organization, the human rights system and, more specifically, the Human Rights Council.

It is inconceivable that a Government that is systematically violating the human rights and fundamental freedoms of its own people could belong to the Council. We hope that circumstances will change and that the Assembly will soon be able to meet once again in order to restore the rights that have been suspended today.

Mr. Rosenthal (Guatemala) (*spoke in Spanish*): Resolution 65/265 adopted today refers not only to the situation in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, but, equally importantly, to the United Nations, its various intergovernmental forums and the difficult dilemmas we sometimes face in reconciling the different principles and purposes contained in the Charter.

For example, our Organization prides itself on its universal nature, and, in that context, we value the diversity of points of view in our forums. In the entire history of the United Nations, we have resorted only in a handful of cases to the suspension or expulsion of a Member State from one or more forums. This is another way of saying that the requirements for belonging to our Organization are not very stringent. Rather, we understand that pluralism and diversity are strengths of multilateral diplomacy.

The adoption of resolution 60/251 and the resolution adopted today, however, sends a signal that our community of nations demands that certain limits be imposed on the code of conduct of Member States. The matter that concerns us today exceeds those limits. There is no doubt that the most elemental human rights of the people of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya have been systematically and flagrantly violated; or, stated differently, that the Government of that country is not even minimally fulfilling its responsibility to protect its civilian population. This means that it lacks the moral authority to give opinions on the manner in which other countries meet the human rights recognized in the Universal Declaration.

In that regard, we understand that the resolution adopted earlier not only constitutes an act of solidarity with the people of Libya, but also strengthens the mechanisms at the disposal of the United Nations to defend and promote human rights at the global level, and for that reason we welcome it.

Mr. Núñez Mosquera (Cuba) (*spoke in Spanish*): Cuba fully shares the international concern over the deaths of civilians in Libya and stands in support of a peaceful and sovereign solution of the conflict by the Libyan people, without foreign interference or intervention. We follow with concern the repeated statements of United States and European Union officials alluding to the fact that they are considering military options in Libya, and reports in the press of the movement of troops and military assets towards the area. Cuba categorically opposes any military intervention in that country, which would lead to thousands of deaths and have very serious consequences for the world economy.

On 25 February, in Geneva, the Cuban delegation dissociated itself from operative paragraph 14 of resolution S-15/1, on the human rights situation in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, which was adopted at the special session convened by the Human Rights Council on the subject of that country. As the Cuban representative said in his statement at that time, the content of that paragraph sets a dangerous precedent for cooperation in the area of human rights, which the Council must uphold through its work.

From the outset, when we were building the new Council, Cuba opposed the clause on the suspension of membership of a given State. We had hoped to have a body that would be free from the double standards and politicization that discredited the former Commission on Human Rights. The inclusion of this clause in resolution 60/251 set a negative precedent in saddling the new Council with an additional burden that is without parallel in any other United Nations body.

Further, the manipulation of the language of paragraph 8 of resolution 60/251 is a serious challenge to the principle of the sovereign equality of States. It endorses membership in the Council of all States Members of the United Nations, but at the same time establishes prerequisites for joining the body and imposes the possibility of expulsion without setting a minimum limit of required votes. In other words, a country elected with the support of the majority of members of the General Assembly can have its rights suspended by the will of a minority or even a small number of countries, since the suspension clause can be triggered with the support of two thirds of those

present and voting, which could be a tiny minority of Member States.

Fortunately, that clause has never been invoked until today. Its use on this occasion opens the door for those wishing to legitimize that mechanism with a view to using it selectively against those countries that reject imposition and foreign interference. It is not by chance that the most enthusiastic promoters of implementing that clause are those developed countries with a long-standing tendency to accuse States of the South while remaining silently complicit on human rights violations in the North. We cannot fail to note the attitude of the country that voted against resolution 60/251, whereas now it is the first to promote the use of one of the most negative attributes of a text that it rejected at the time.

We will see if the General Assembly is capable of deciding on the suspension of a powerful State, responsible for the deaths of thousands of innocent citizens in its conquering ventures and for the disappearance, torture and extrajudicial execution of human beings confined in secret concentration camps.

Mr. Thalassinós (Panama) (*spoke in Spanish*): Panama energetically condemns the systematic violations of the human rights of the Libyan people, who yearn to live in peace and freedom. Panama laments the loss of human lives and extends its sincerest condolences to the victims' families.

Panama supports Human Rights Council resolution S-15/1 and hopes for the urgent dispatch of an independent international commission to investigate serious human rights violations in Libya. All Governments have the fundamental and irrevocable responsibility to protect their people. The current Libyan regime has flouted that responsibility by suppressing its own people. Given those realities, Panama supports Libya's suspension from its seat in the Human Rights Council, and therefore endorses today's adoption by consensus of resolution 65/265.

Our country, Panama, expresses its complete support for Security Council resolution 1970 (2011) as a first mechanism to curb the very serious situation in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya. Today, it is urgent to take immediate and resolute measures to safeguard lives that remain in danger. Panama stands firmly with the Libyan people, who, at this historic time, are fighting for the rule of a democratic regime with an unbreakable will.

Mr. Ulibarri (Costa Rica) (*spoke in Spanish*): For the first time since the establishment of the Human Rights Council, the General Assembly has decided to suspend one of its members for gross and systematic human rights violations. Costa Rica condemns such violations, ordered at the highest levels of the Libyan Government.

That suspension, which we support, constitutes a historic decision, in full compliance with international law and with our responsibility as Members of the United Nations to protect the lives, integrity and fundamental rights of human beings. That responsibility is enshrined in our Charter and embodied in paragraph 8 of resolution 60/251. We are acting pursuant to the request made by the Human Rights Council in its resolution S/15-1 and in the same spirit that has guided the Secretary-General, the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Security Council, the League of Arab States, the Organization of the Islamic Conference, the Foreign Affairs Council of the European Union, and the Peace and Security Council of the African Union with regard to this case.

Moreover, we uphold this universal reaction to the perverse actions undertaken against unarmed civilians, which could reach the extreme of crimes against humanity, as recognition of the importance of human rights in the international system and in multilateral action.

In highlighting these elements, we should not forget that the Government that we have just suspended did not become a voracious repression machine in recent weeks. It already had that character, which gave rise to the current violations, when it was elected to the Council last year; even so, it received enough votes to become a member. Therefore, to a certain extent, the resolution adopted today is also a way of rectifying that mistake. If there is any lesson that we should learn from this situation, it is the need to improve the parameters for joining the Council.

Today, the Libyan people will welcome our reaction. We hope that, in the future, other peoples rather thank our prevention.

Mr. Rodríguez (Peru) (*spoke in Spanish*): The Human Rights Council is responsible for promoting universal respect for the protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms of persons. As such, it was established to be seized of situations in which there are

violations, including serious and systematic violations, of such rights.

It is therefore paradoxical that the Government of a State member of the Human Rights Council not only does not protect those rights and promote fundamental freedoms, but, on the contrary, uses all its strength to violently curtail such rights and fundamental freedoms. For that reason and owing to its consistent commitment to human rights, Peru co-sponsored resolution 65/265, which we have just adopted.

Peru reiterates its energetic condemnation of the ongoing suppression by the Libyan Government against demonstrators who are expressing their discontent and are peacefully demanding, as is their right, reform of the country's political system. That suppression must immediately cease. Moreover, the Government of Peru deplores the loss of human lives and the use of violence, while expressing its condolences to the families of all the victims.

In line with its principles in support of the promotion and protection of human rights, the Government of Peru has suspended its diplomatic relations with Libya until it ends the violence against the Libyan people. It has formally requested the Secretary-General to intervene to ensure the peace and security of the Libyan people.

In this context, we have supported the calls of both the Secretary-General and the High Commissioner for Human Rights for an independent inquiry into the violations of human rights and to ascribe responsibility for them. Peru co-sponsored the special session of the Human Rights Council on the situation of human rights in Libya, as well as resolution S-15/2 adopted therein. My country fully subscribes to the tenor of the Security Council's unanimously adopted resolution 1970 (2011).

In conclusion, resolution 65/265, adopted today, is completely consistent with the measures that we as States should take when members of the Human Rights Council do not meet their responsibilities. The decision we have taken, which complies with the provision of resolution 60/251, strengthens the Council's credibility and sends a signal of respect for the human rights of the Libyan people and the entire world.

Mr. Wenaweser (Liechtenstein): As a sponsor of resolution 65/265, we welcome the Assembly's consensus decision to suspend Libya's membership rights in the Human Rights Council. The reports from Libya continue to be alarming, and include widespread incidences of extrajudicial killings and arbitrary detentions and arrests, as well as torture. The scale and systematic nature of the offences that the regime is inciting and committing is a cause for serious concern that those acts may amount to crimes against humanity. We therefore welcome the Human Rights Council's establishment of a commission of inquiry and the Security Council's referral of the situation to the International Criminal Court. The fact that both decisions were made by consensus shows that the United Nations stands united to ensure full accountability on the part of those responsible.

Today, the General Assembly has acted for the first time on a case where a member of the Human Rights Council has blatantly violated its pledge and duty to uphold the highest standards in the promotion and protection of human rights. The suspension was recommended by the Council in its decision last Friday; it should be understood, however, that the General Assembly can act on its own initiative under the terms of resolution 60/251 — a resolution that in its integrity enables us to promote and protect human rights in a comprehensive manner.

The Assembly, the only universal organ of the United Nations, has acted in accordance with the letter and spirit of that resolution, and has thus assumed its responsibility to react decisively to the situation in Libya. It has thereby strengthened its own authority and the standing of the Human Rights Council, and has once again sent a message that the international community stands with the people of Libya.

Mr. Michelsen (Norway): Norway would like to thank Botswana, Jordan, Lebanon, Nigeria and Qatar for bringing this timely initiative to the General Assembly. The membership of the United Nations has responded to their call by supporting resolution 65/265 across regions and political divides. By taking action today we have exercised the stated will of the Assembly, when it established the Human Rights Council, to allow for the suspension of members of the Council that commit gross and systematic violations of human rights.

The Human Rights Council, in its special session on 25 February, unanimously condemned the gross and systematic human rights violations committed in Libya, sending a clear message that the ruthless use of violence against peaceful protesters is entirely

unacceptable. And by adopting today's resolution, the Assembly has acted on the Council's urgent recommendation. Similarly, Norway commends the 15 members of the Security Council for reacting swiftly, unanimously and with precision, in adopting Saturday's landmark resolution 1970 (2011) in response to the madness perpetrated by the Al-Qadhafi regime.

As a member of the Human Rights Council, Norway warmly welcomes the adoption of today's resolution. By suspending Libya's right to exercise its membership in the Council, the General Assembly has maintained the Council's credibility, as well as its own. Moreover, we have sent an unequivocal message of support to the people of Libya, who are standing up for their inalienable human rights.

Mr. Nishida (Japan): In May, the General Assembly elected the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to membership in the Human Rights Council. Japan is deeply concerned about the gross and systematic violations of human rights currently being committed by the Libyan Government. On that basis, Japan co-sponsored resolution 65/265 suspending the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya's membership rights in the Human Rights Council.

Japan condemns the Government's violence and use of force against its own citizens. We express our deep condolences to the families of the many victims of that violence, and offer our heartfelt sympathy to the injured. All the perpetrators of these heinous acts must be brought to justice. Japan urges the Libyan authorities, including their leader, Muammar Al-Qadhafi, to put an immediate halt to the violence against Libya's people, and calls urgently on them to comply without delay with the demands set forth in the Human Rights Council's resolution S-15/1 and Security Council resolution 1970 (2011).

Lastly, Japan hopes fervently that, once stability is restored, Libya will move forward with fundamental reforms that adequately reflect the broad spectrum of the opinions of its people, in accordance with all the international human rights instruments to which Libya is party, and will ensure the protection and promotion of the people's human rights.

Mr. Karev (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): The Russian Federation firmly condemns the use of force against the peaceful protesters in Libya, which has led to great loss of life among the civilian population. We are convinced that a solution to the current problems in that country cannot and must not lie in the use of force. A dialogue is needed to prevent any further schism in Libya's society and any interference in the country's internal affairs and sovereignty. Settling the current crisis is the prerogative of the Libyan people themselves.

The Russian delegation joined in the consensus adoption of resolution 65/265 on the suspension of the membership rights of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya in the Human Rights Council. However, we proceed from the premise that the decision in question does not establish a precedent, including in regard to the lack of a definition of practical procedural aspects in paragraph 8 of resolution 60/251. It is also important that the resolution refers to the suspension of rights of membership in the Human Rights Council, and not to depriving a country of its membership in the major human rights body of the United Nations; and that, as noted in the statement of the African Union, Libya's seat in the Human Rights Council is not vacant, and that there will be no additional elections to fill any such vacancy.

Mr. McLay (New Zealand): New Zealand has watched with concern the grave developments that continue to unfold in Libya. We therefore applaud today's adoption of resolution 65/265. We express solidarity with those courageous Libyans who are seeking an end to a totalitarian regime. We strongly condemn the actions that have slaughtered hundreds of civilians and we express our condolences to the bereaved and our sympathy to the injured.

The Libyan regime's systematic use of deadly force, including aerial and rocket attacks against civilians, evokes memories of other such violations by tyrants, and may well be crimes against humanity. These attacks violate the rights to life, freedom of expression and peaceful assembly. No regime has the right to turn its own country and the lives of its own people into "a living hell".

On Friday, in an historically important move, the Human Rights Council decided it could not silently stand by and watch such grave abuses of human rights. New Zealand welcomed and supported Human Rights Council resolution S-15/1. We have supported this General Assembly decision to exercise its power to suspend the rights of any member of the Council that

commits gross and systematic human rights violations. We were a sponsor of the resolution to that effect.

Libya was a member of the Human Rights Council. Respect for human rights was one of the pillars on which the United Nations was founded. The United Nations membership had therefore placed Libya in a position of the greatest trust and responsibility. Libya sought that Council role and has a special responsibility to uphold the highest standards of human rights. The Libyan Government has grossly abused that trust. There is no evidence whatsoever that it is in any way protecting its citizens from human rights abuses. Indeed, tragically, everything indicates to the contrary.

New Zealand urges Libya to respect the will of its people. We call on the Libyan authorities to work with the international community to bring about a peaceful solution to the crisis, to ensure that humanitarian assistance is available to those in need and to uphold their responsibility to protect their citizens.

New Zealand urges accountability for those responsible for attacks on civilians and welcomes the Security Council's decision to refer the situation in Libya to the International Criminal Court (see Security Council resolution 1970 (2011)).

This has been an important moment for the credibility of the United Nations. We, today, had a responsibility to say that we will not tolerate these insults to human rights and would not allow such violators to sit at the human rights table. We have a responsibility to the people of Libya to discharge those responsibilities accordingly. We have accomplished these tasks.

Mr. Ntwaagae (Botswana): My delegation joined the list of sponsors of landmark resolution 65/265, which the Assembly has just adopted by consensus, as a gesture of support and solidarity with the people of Libya. In recent days, the world community has watched helplessly as the people of Libya continued to bear the brunt of the excessive use of force, gross violations of human rights and brutality perpetrated by their Government. Botswana has severed diplomatic relations with Libya in protest against that Government's actions. The carnage must cease forthwith.

The international community has a duty and responsibility to ensure that the Government of Libya exercises its responsibility to protect the fundamental rights, freedoms and dignity of its people.

The Assembly will recall that resolution 60/251, which established the Human Rights Council on 15 March 2006, carries a commitment that "members elected to the Council shall uphold the highest standards in the promotion and protection of human rights" (*para. 9*). This means that any member elected to the Council has a duty and obligation to provide guardianship and to lead by example in terms of cultivating a peaceful atmosphere for the full enjoyment and exercise of human rights and fundamental freedoms by its citizens, including the freedom of expression and freedom of assembly.

My delegation takes the view that the membership in the Council of any member State that fails to measure up to these values is not worth preserving. We feel strongly that the rare fortune and privilege of being entrusted with authority to govern should always be complemented by a significant measure of humility and accountability.

Our action in the Assembly today represents a strong collective expression of the international community's disapproval of the abuse of privilege and lack of remorse on the part of the Libyan authorities for the grave human rights violations being committed in that country.

By adopting this resolution, the General Assembly has sent a clear and strong message that the continued indiscriminate use of excessive force by a Government against its own people cannot be condoned any further. Botswana believes these actions are extremely reprehensible and warrant the step the Assembly has just taken: the suspension of Libya's membership rights in the Human Rights Council, as provided for in paragraph 8 of the Council's founding resolution 60/251.

Mrs. Rubiales de Chamorro (Nicaragua) (*spoke in Spanish*): As a country that has survived several military occupations and acts of aggression by a foreign Power, for which we have paid a high price in Nicaraguan lives, Nicaragua advocates and will continue to advocate for peace and reconciliation. Wherever and under all circumstances, dialogue and negotiation among brothers is the only viable way to resolve internal conflicts and guarantee the sovereignty and integrity of a nation and its territory.

Nicaragua is extremely concerned about the loss of life among innocent civilians. In this case in particular, we profoundly regret the loss of life among the people of Libya, a country with which Nicaragua has enjoyed close links. We trust in the abilities and the wisdom of the Libyan people and its leadership, headed by Muammar Al-Qadhafi, to resolve their domestic problems and find a peaceful solution in a sovereign manner, without foreign interference, double standards or foreign military intervention of any type or under any justification.

This is why we are deeply concerned by the ferocious media campaign being waged against Libya and its people. The news is contradictory, inflated and used at the whim of the great centres of power. It serves only to incite violence and seeks to justify foreign military aggression and intervention, which would only lead to more bloodshed, chaos and destabilization, opening the way once again to those who wish to appropriate the vast oil resources of the Libyan people.

Nicaragua wishes to state for the record that it condemns all attempts by those Powers to divide Libya's territory in order to acquire its natural resources. Nicaragua would also like to state on the record that implementing this measure to suspend Libya from the Human Rights Council will not only fail to resolve the domestic crisis being experienced by the Libyan people, but will also set a bad precedent. Suspending a country's rights as a member of the Human Rights Council, precipitously and based upon the sort of information we have seen from media disseminated from the great power centres, creates a precedent for countries that use selectivity as their principal guide to foreign policy. Those countries, which turn a blind eye to their own massive human rights violations while claiming that the rest of us should ignore them as well, are the same countries that invade our peoples and set up secret prisons. Nicaragua rejects and condemns such a double standard in moral values.

Human rights violations include those perpetrated against the Arab and Palestinian peoples; against Nicaragua, as noted in the decision of the International Court of Justice; and against the five Cuban heroes.

Nicaragua calls for calm and negotiation, putting aside double standards, and the promotion of dialogue. We hold out the hope that the Libyan people will be able to achieve peace while fully exercising their national sovereignty.

Mr. Kleib (Indonesia): Indonesia joins others in expressing its grave concern over the unravelling situation in Libya, which continues to deteriorate tragically. The people and Government of Indonesia are deeply grieved by the loss of innocent Libyan lives as a result of hideous attacks. We are pained by the immense loss and destruction and express our heartfelt condolences to the families of the victims.

Indonesia has maintained its principled and steadfast position that, ultimately, it is the sovereign right and responsibility of the people of the nation concerned to chart their own democratic and peaceful path to overcome the challenges before them. However, we are seeing instead a Government that is unwilling to fulfil its basic responsibility to protect its own citizens and ensure their safety, security and welfare. Most alarmingly, the Government is only too willing to bring harm to its own citizens.

We share the international community's dismay over the manner in which the Libyan authorities have dealt with the legitimate aspirations of the people of Libya. The Libyan nation deserves peace and normal conditions in order to determine its future peacefully and through dialogue. The Libyan authorities must respect the voice of Libyan citizens and refrain from using force against them. They must respect international human rights and humanitarian law. We underscore that they should make the utmost effort to stop any further loss of life and suffering of the Libyan people.

The Libyan authorities must take urgent measures to protect foreign workers and nationals and facilitate the departure of those wishing to leave the country. In that regard, we underline the importance of cooperation among the countries and entities involved in evacuating foreign nationals.

We are pleased that the international community has spoken with one strong voice to state that the violence in Libya must be stopped. Regional and international organizations have also taken serious measures consistent with the United Nations Charter and the principles of international law to address the situation in Libya.

The General Assembly's adoption today of resolution 65/265 also reflects the crucial importance

of the international community's support and sends a strong signal on the importance of protecting and promoting basic human rights in Libya.

In conclusion, let me reaffirm my country's readiness to contribute to international endeavours to alleviate the suffering of Libyan citizens. We join the global community in urging the Libyan authorities to urgently take all measures necessary to end the misery of the innocent Libyans, to provide them relief and to create and ensure conditions conducive to a democratic political process.

Ms. Zhang Dan (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): In view of the extremely exceptional situation now prevailing in Libya and the views and concerns expressed by Arab and African countries, the Chinese delegation joined the consensus on resolution 65/265. At the same time, the Chinese delegation hopes that the General Assembly's suspension of Libya's membership rights in the Human Rights Council will not become a precedent.

Mr. Mahmood (Bangladesh): Bangladesh has followed with concern the recent developments in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya. We are profoundly shocked and concerned by the onset of violence and human rights violations, which have generated a sense of insecurity in the region. We hope for a peaceful resolution of the ongoing crisis and an early return to normalcy.

Bangladesh is also concerned about the safety of all expatriates living in Libya. The safety and security of everyone within Libyan territory, including around 60,000 Bangladeshi expatriates, is greatly threatened. Bangladesh therefore calls upon all concerned to exercise maximum restraint in dealing with the humanitarian catastrophe in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya.

Mr. Sinhaseni (Thailand): As a member of the Human Rights Council, Thailand fully supports resolution 65/265, which has just been adopted by consensus. With this resolution, together with Security Council resolution 1970 (2011), adopted this past Saturday, the international community has sent a clear and strong signal that the violence and bloodshed against the Libyan people must end now. That represents a prompt response to the recommendation of the Human Rights Council to suspend the membership rights of Libya, which has been deemed to have committed gross and systematic violations of human rights, as stipulated in resolution 60/251.

I wish to draw the Assembly's attention to another dimension of the current crisis in Libya, namely, the plight of foreign workers in the country, as mentioned earlier by the Secretary-General and by my Philippine colleague from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

Even under normal circumstances, the living and working conditions of foreign workers are often challenging and difficult. At times of crisis such as this, they become extremely vulnerable. In Thailand's case, we have more than 25,000 workers and students in Libya. The Government is doing all that it can to assist and bring them home safely. Since the crisis began, many who have been able to reach neighbouring countries have returned home safely. Even as I speak today, a chartered ship is transporting another 2,000 workers from Tripoli. Despite this massive and complex operation, those 2,000 represent only a fraction of the total number of Thais in Tripoli. Let me state for the record here Thailand's sincere thanks and appreciation for the cooperation and assistance extended to us by our friends, particularly Egypt and Tunisia.

It is our hope that the international community, together with the relevant United Nations agencies, will also give the issue of foreign workers the serious attention it deserves. While it is right for Member States to be concerned about the plight of the Libyan people and their courageous struggle, we should not ignore or forget others who are equally in need of our attention and assistance.

Mr. Carrión-Mena (Ecuador) (*spoke in Spanish*): Consistent with its policy of respecting and defending human rights and promoting peace, Ecuador condemns the prevailing violence in Libya, which has already caused enormous bloodshed. My country has taken this stance on the basis of its own convictions and the provisions of its Constitution.

Ecuador is responding in a consistent manner to this situation, which is tragically affecting the human rights of the Libyan people. Along those lines, my country joined the consensus on resolution S-15/2 adopted last week by the Human Rights Council, in its capacity as a member of the Council. Ecuador cannot but reiterate once again its unconditional respect for the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs

of other States, without the exceptions or discrimination that have characterized other recent cases, perhaps the most pathetic example of which is Iraq.

Ecuador warns now that it will openly reject any possible military intervention in Libya. Resolution 65/265, which refers exclusively to the defence of human rights, should not be used for any purpose other than that of protecting the long-suffering Libyan people.

Mr. Solón (Plurinational State of Bolivia) (*spoke in Spanish*): The Plurinational State of Bolivia joined the consensus adoption of resolution 65/265 because we reject the use of violence, regardless of its source, in particular against an unarmed civilian population. Nothing can justify the loss of human life.

Bolivia has lived through situations similar to those in the Middle East today. For instance, in October 2003, a neoliberal Government resorted to murderous machine-gunning tactics to quell the popular uprising in Bolivia. The human pain of massacres is not foreign to the life and history of the Bolivian people.

Nevertheless, the current consensus cannot be misinterpreted or used to promote military intervention. Libya must find peace in the context of the fullest respect for its sovereignty and territorial integrity, while preserving and guaranteeing the human rights of its entire population. Any attempt at foreign interference with a view to controlling Libya's natural and petroleum resources should be forcefully condemned. There is nothing worse than taking advantage of human suffering for geopolitical ends.

Bolivia therefore wishes to warn against the use of the mechanism being implemented for the first time by the Human Rights Council to selectively apply it to countries whose orientation differs from that of the dominant Powers. The defence of human rights cannot be subject to double standards or be more permissive with friends and stricter with those who express dissent.

To that extent, a comprehensive, independent and impartial investigation is needed into current events in Libya so as to avoid any manipulation by the media and to guarantee that justice is effectively served. The adoption of the resolution should send a clear signal that the violence in Libya must stop and that a peaceful solution must be found that respects the human rights of all in the context of sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Mr. Quinlan (Australia): Australia co-sponsored the historic resolution 65/265. We condemn the recent events in Libya. The Libyan Government must uphold its responsibility to protect its population. The international community has its own responsibility to act in such situations to protect civilian populations from mass atrocities, including crimes against humanity.

It is our very strong belief that the gross and systematic human rights violations recently committed by the Libyan regime warranted its suspension from the Human Rights Council in accordance with the General Assembly's own resolution 60/251. It is untenable that a regime so clearly failing in its responsibility to protect its own people is fit to serve on such a fundamental body. The General Assembly has been mandated to take precisely this action in precisely these circumstances. It is right that it has done so by consensus.

We welcome the strong statement issued by the League of Arab States, the communiqué issued by the Peace and Security Council of the African Union and the statement of the Secretary-General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference. The unanimous and robust actions subsequently taken by both the Security Council and the Human Rights Council sent a clear signal to the Libyan Government that the international community would not stand idly by in the face of such gross and systematic violations.

We welcome Security Council resolution 1970 (2011) and are working to implement it urgently, together with additional autonomous sanctions announced by Australia's Foreign Minister last weekend. We urge the Security Council to consider further action to protect the people of Libya, if necessary.

The Libyan people are crying out for freedom. Australia supports the universal rights and freedoms of the Libyan people. Our thoughts are with the Libyan people, who continue to struggle for freedom from oppression. We salute their bravery.

Mr. Reuben (Israel): Israel fully supports resolution 65/265 and Libya's suspension from membership in the Human Rights Council, which was

long overdue. For years, we have been calling attention to the dire and alarming human rights situation in our region. The Libyan situation is a representative case in point. It is regrettable that such tragedies are addressed only when crises and murderous crimes unfold, such as in this case, despite the fact that such systematic and long-standing abhorrent human rights violations have been well documented throughout the years.

Under its current notorious regime, Libya should never have been elected to sit as a member of the Human Rights Council. The international community's response to this appalling human rights crisis should serve as a wake-up call as we also deliberate the future of the Council and its membership.

Mr. Lima (Cape Verde) (*spoke in French*): There are times when people act to expedite the march of their history and shatter all predictions to impose a new reality that reflects their most fundamental and most legitimate aspirations. There are times in history when those upheavals are so profound and so decisive that they inspire some to understand their context and cause others to unreliably interpret geopolitical projections. We are witnessing what some have called the springtime of peoples in the Arab world. This is one of those historic moments in which past equations are reversed and regimes based on outdated values or that have lost the sense of history are shaken to their core. These are times that define a future, that are meant to be promising for all and that should be a time to shed sinful or unilateral interests.

What these people are asking for and protesting about in the streets of a number of countries is respect for human dignity; justice for all; freedom, and therefore more democracy and greater account taken of their basic aspirations. What people would not want to enjoy those eternal values? What people would not want to be master of its own destiny and able to choose freely its own path towards fulfilment and progress?

Today, faced with the terrible abuses perpetrated against the Libyan people by those who should be protecting them, and with what we must indeed call a crime committed against the Libyan people, the General Assembly has clearly stated its position by suspending Libya's membership rights in the Human Rights Council. Silence on our part at this juncture would not only be a crime but would constitute failure in the eyes of history. In this way, we express our solidarity with that great people, while responding to the call from the Human Rights Council.

That is why we support draft resolution 65/265, and we are glad to have been able to participate in this landmark effort by the United Nations.

Mr. Vigny (Switzerland) (*spoke in French*): I would like to thank the Arab and African States that took the initiative of submitting to the General Assembly resolution 65/265 suspending Libya's membership rights in the Human Rights Council, of which Switzerland was a sponsor. The resolution implements paragraph 14 of resolution S-15/2 adopted on 25 February by the Human Rights Council at its special session on the human rights situation in Libya.

Switzerland welcomes the adoption of resolution 65/265 in accordance with the relevant provisions of resolution 60/251. Today's resolution unquestionably strengthens the credibility of the Human Rights Council and therefore of the United Nations itself; and for my country, that is essential.

The President (*spoke in French*): We have heard the last speaker on my list for this meeting.

A Member State has asked to exercise its right of reply. I remind representatives that statements in right of reply are limited to 10 minutes for the first statement.

Mr. Valero Briceño (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) (*spoke in Spanish*): We regret that we have to respond to the delegation of the United States, because the subject we are discussing is profoundly and universally human and thus not bilateral in nature. It is understandable that a Government with a long history of human rights violations in its own country and around the world should respond with false arguments to the self-evident references by the Venezuelan delegation to the interventionist policy of the United States.

The President (*spoke in French*): We have concluded our discussion. The Assembly has taken a powerful and significant decision that undoubtedly speaks to the hopes of millions of men and women that the General Assembly, and the United Nations as a whole, can show itself to be an uncompromising defender of human rights. On a personal note, I welcome this decision and wish to say that I am proud to preside over this Assembly.

The meeting rose at 5.30 p.m.

United Nations A/65/PV.77

General Assembly
Sixty-fifth session

Official Records

77th plenary meeting
Monday, 7 March 2011, 3 p.m.
New York

President: Mr. Deiss ..... (Switzerland)

In the absence of the President, Ms. Lucas (Luxembourg), Vice-President, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

Agenda item 9 (*continued*)

Report of the Economic and Social Council

Note by the Secretary-General (A/65/768)

The Acting President (*spoke in French*): Members will recall that the Assembly considered, in a joint debate, agenda item 9 and agenda item 13, "Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields", at its 34th plenary meeting, on 20 October 2010.

The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution entitled "Revision of the General Regulations of the World Food Programme", contained in the annex to document A/65/768.

May I take it that the Assembly decides to adopt the draft resolution?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 65/266).

The Acting President (*spoke in French*): The General Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 9.

The meeting rose at 3.15 p.m.

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United Nations A/65/PV.78

General Assembly
Sixty-fifth session

Official Records

78th plenary meeting
Tuesday, 15 March 2011, 3 p.m.
New York

President: Mr. Deiss ..... (Switzerland)

The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

Earthquake and tsunami in Japan

The President (*spoke in French*): I should like, on behalf of the General Assembly, to express our sincere compassion and deep sympathy to the Government and people of Japan, which were profoundly affected last Friday by one of the gravest natural disasters in the country's history.

A month ago, the General Assembly held a thematic debate on risk prevention. Since then, reality — in the form of the earthquake in New Zealand and now the disaster affecting Japan — has reminded us of the importance of prevention and of the difficulty of predicting every danger. Even Japan, one of the best prepared countries, can be devastated.

We do not yet know the extent of the human losses and material damage caused by the major earthquake and the ensuing tsunami that struck Japan. Nevertheless, we are all shocked and concerned, because through Japan, the whole region and the entire world are affected.

The international community must therefore show solidarity and provide assistance to the Japanese people and Government so as to help them to overcome this very difficult ordeal as quickly as possible. Our efforts should also extend to the other countries of the region that were affected by the catastrophe.

In memory of the victims and as a sign of solidarity with the people and Government of Japan, I now invite the Assembly to stand and observe a minute of silence.

The members of the General Assembly observed a minute of silence.

Agenda item 7 (*continued*)

Organization of work, adoption of the agenda and allocation of items

The President (*spoke in French*): Members will recall that the General Assembly concluded its consideration of agenda item 27 at its 71st plenary meeting, on 21 December 2010. In order to enable the General Assembly to consider draft resolution A/65/L.63, it will be necessary to reopen consideration of sub-item (b) of agenda item 27.

May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to reopen its consideration of sub-item (b) of agenda item 27?

It was so decided.

The President (*spoke in French*): Representatives will also recall that, at its 2nd plenary meeting, on 17 September 2010, the General Assembly allocated sub-item (b) of agenda item 27 to the Third Committee. In order for the Assembly to proceed expeditiously on this sub-item, may I take it that the Assembly agrees to consider it directly in plenary meeting?

It was so decided.

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The President (*spoke in French*): May I further take it that the Assembly agrees to proceed immediately to the consideration of sub-item (b) of agenda item 27?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 27 (*continued*)

Social development

(b) Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family

Draft resolution A/65/L.63

The President (*spoke in French*): I give the floor to the representative of Hungary, who wishes to speak in explanation of position before the Assembly takes action on the draft resolution.

Ms. Kovács (Hungary): I have the honour to deliver this statement in explanation of position on behalf of the European Union (EU).

The candidate countries Turkey, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Montenegro; the countries of the Stabilization and Association Process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia; the European Free Trade Association country member of the European Economic Area, Norway; as well as Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova and Georgia align themselves with this declaration.

Allow me to start by thanking Mr. Jean-Francis Régis Zinsou, Ambassador of Benin, for his efforts in facilitating the draft resolution entitled "Organization of the High-level Meeting on Youth" (A/65/L.63).

The EU firmly believes that the United Nations High-level Meeting should be a forum in which adequate youth participation is guaranteed, including non-governmental organizations and youth-led organizations. The EU appeals to Governments to include in their delegations youth representatives who are transparently selected and suitably entitled to represent the young people of their countries.

In that regard, the European Union regrets that agreed language in the Commission for Social Development resolution entitled "Policies and programmes involving youth", adopted just three weeks ago, could not be incorporated into today's text.

The EU once again wishes to underline the importance of a High-level Meeting that includes rather than excludes youth representatives, whose inputs are to be taken into consideration. Therefore, we are convinced that young people should be given adequate time and sufficient opportunities to speak and to draw our attention to the concerns, problems and challenges that they face. We should also be able to discuss how to develop new opportunities for young people. It is impossible to ignore, for example, the role that new technologies can play in ensuring employment and in fighting poverty and underdevelopment. The EU was surprised that its proposal to reflect that element in the theme for round table 2 was met with opposition.

Our position on this issue has been further reinforced by the latest developments in North Africa and the Middle East, which demonstrate that we actually have to listen to the wishes and demands of youth. In that context, we deem it essential that young people be empowered and given the opportunity to become active citizens who participate in decision-making, especially on those issues that concern them.

The European Union attaches great importance to the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond (resolution 50/81, annex) as the most relevant United Nations document dealing with youth issues. That document should guide us in our discussions during the negotiations of the Meeting's outcome, as well as during the High-level Meeting itself. We firmly believe that the World Programme of Action for Youth should be fully implemented and viewed as the main point of reference, not in the least because it was adopted by the General Assembly by consensus in 1995 and supplemented, also by consensus, in 2007 (see resolution 62/126). We think that creating a framework for our discussions, comprising the World Programme of Action on Youth, other relevant programmes of action and internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, would help us to prioritize the various issues.

While the European Union did not wish to break consensus on this important draft resolution, we regret that the issues to which I have referred could not be more clearly reflected in document A/65/L.63.

Before I conclude, allow me to draw the kind attention of all representatives to our basic position. The conference should be not only a meeting about

youth issues, but also a meeting with young people and, above all, for them and for their future. We must ensure that their voices are heard before, during and after the conference. The EU will endeavour to continue to work actively to promote such a process and outcome and we encourage other delegations to do likewise. It is easily said that young people are our future; now, it is time to act upon that.

The President (*spoke in French*): The Assembly will now take action on draft resolution A/65/L.63, entitled "Organization of the High-level Meeting on Youth".

May I take it that the Assembly decides to adopt draft resolution A/65/L.63?

Draft resolution A/65/L.63 was adopted (resolution 65/267).

The President (*spoke in French*): I now give the floor to speakers who wish to explain their position on the resolution just adopted.

Mr. Vigny (Switzerland) (*spoke in French*): Switzerland thanks the facilitator of the negotiating process for having reached a hard-won consensus on this resolution on the organization of the High-level Meeting on Youth, which is of special importance given the role played by young people in events of recent weeks in several countries around the world.

Two representatives of the Swiss National Youth Council figured in our delegation during the negotiations. Together with other youth representatives, they voiced their opinions on modalities of organization of the High-level Meeting in a letter sent to you, Mr. President, with a copy to the facilitator of our negotiating process.

For Switzerland, it is therefore important that youth representatives in the official delegations at the High-level Meeting be included following a transparent selection process, ensuring that they truly represent the mass of young people in their countries without any political considerations. Moreover, the free participation of youth organizations, civil society organizations, including non-governmental organizations, and the private sector is vital if the meeting is to have added value.

During the negotiations, we declared our clear preference at the outset for the outcome of the conference to be recorded in a summary by the President of the General Assembly. We accepted the drafting of an outcome document of the Meeting on the sole condition that it take into account the opinions of youth organizations and agree with the World Programme of Action for Youth and the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals.

The President (*spoke in French*): We have heard the only speaker in explanation of vote.

I should like to express here my sincere thanks to Ambassador Jean-Francis Régis Zinsou of Benin, who so effectively and patiently conducted the discussions and complex negotiations in the informal consultations in order to bring them to a successful conclusion. I am sure that members of the Assembly join me in extending to him our sincere appreciation.

The General Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of sub-item (b) of agenda item 27.

It was so decided.

Agenda item 7 (*continued*)

Organization of work, adoption of the agenda and allocation of items

The President (*spoke in French*): I invite the attention of the General Assembly to the draft decision contained in document A/65/L.61, issued under sub-item (a) of agenda item 74, "Oceans and the law of the sea".

Members will recall that the General Assembly concluded its consideration of agenda item 74 at its 59th plenary meeting on 7 December 2010. In order to enable the General Assembly to consider the draft decision, it will be necessary to reopen consideration of sub-item (a) of agenda item 74.

May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to reopen consideration of sub-item (a) of agenda item 74?

It was so decided.

The President (*spoke in French*): May I further take it that the Assembly agrees to proceed immediately to the consideration of sub-item (a) of agenda item 74?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 74 (*continued*)

Oceans and the law of the sea

(a) Oceans and the law of the sea

Draft decision (A/65/L.61)

The President (*spoke in French*): The Assembly will now take action on draft decision A/65/L.61.

May I take it that the Assembly decides to adopt draft decision A/65/L.61?

Draft decision A/65/L.61 was adopted.

The President (*spoke in French*): The General Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of sub-item (a) of agenda item 74.

It was so decided.

Agenda item 7 (*continued*)

Organization of work, adoption of the agenda and allocation of items

The President (*spoke in French*): The General Assembly has before it a report of the Fifth Committee on sub-item (b) of agenda item 113, entitled "Appointment of members of the Committee on Contributions", contained in document A/65/563/Add.1.

In order for the Assembly to consider the report of the Fifth Committee, it will be necessary to reopen consideration of sub-item (b) of agenda item 113.

May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to reopen consideration of sub-item (b) of agenda item 113?

It was so decided.

The President (*spoke in French*): To enable the General Assembly to take up expeditiously the report of the Fifth Committee, may I further take it that the Assembly agrees to proceed immediately to the consideration of sub-item (b) of agenda item 113?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 113 (*continued*)

Appointments to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other appointments

(b) Appointment of members of the Committee on Contributions

Report of the Fifth Committee (A/65/563/Add.1)

The President (*spoke in French*): If there is no proposal under rule 66 of the rules of procedure, I shall take it that the General Assembly decides not to discuss the report of the Fifth Committee that is before it today.

It was so decided.

The President (*spoke in French*): Before we begin to take action on the recommendation contained in the report of the Fifth Committee, I should like to advise representatives that we are going to proceed to take a decision in the same manner as was done in the Fifth Committee.

The Fifth Committee recommends in paragraph 3 of its report that the General Assembly appoint Mr. Patrick Haughey of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Mr. Sun Xudong of China as members of the Committee on Contributions for a term of office beginning today, 15 March 2011, and ending on 31 December 2011.

May I take it that it is the wish of the Assembly to appoint Mr. Patrick Haughey of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Mr. Sun Xudong of China as members of the Committee on Contributions for a term of office beginning on 15 March 2011 and ending on 31 December 2011?

It was so decided.

The President (*spoke in French*): May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of sub-item (b) of agenda item 113?

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 3.30 p.m.

United Nations A/65/PV.79

General Assembly

Official Records

Sixty-fifth session

79th plenary meeting
Monday, 21 March 2011, 10 a.m.
New York

President: Mr. Deiss ..... (Switzerland)

The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Agenda item 133 (*continued*)

Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations (A/65/691/Add.7)

The President (*spoke in French*): Before proceeding to the other items on our agenda, I should like, in keeping with established practice, to draw the attention of the General Assembly to document A/65/691/Add.7, in which the Secretary-General informs the President of the Assembly that, since the issuance of his communication contained in document A/65/691/Add.6, the Dominican Republic and the Gambia have made the necessary payments to reduce their arrears below the amount specified in Article 19 of the Charter.

May I take it that the General Assembly duly takes note of the information contained in that document?

It was so decided.

Agenda items 30 and 109

Report of the Peacebuilding Commission

Report of the Peacebuilding Commission (A/65/701)

Report of the Secretary-General on the Peacebuilding Fund

Report of the Secretary-General on the Peacebuilding Fund (A/65/353)

The President (*spoke in French*): In connection with agenda item 30, members will recall that the General Assembly, by its resolution 65/7, of 29 October 2010, decided to review the progress made in taking forward the relevant recommendations of the report submitted by the co-facilitators, entitled "Review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture" (A/64/868, annex).

The report of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) before the Assembly today attests to the broad range of activities under way during the time period under review. I would especially like to thank Ambassador Peter Wittig for his very skilful conduct of the Commission's work during his term, which has just concluded. I also thank all of the Commission's members for their commitment on behalf of peacebuilding.

Since its inception, in 2005, the Peacebuilding Commission has contributed to integrating the development dimension in the management of post-conflict situations. From Afghanistan to the Sudan and from Burundi to Liberia and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, building and maintaining peace is a difficult task. Building and maintaining peace requires much more than silencing weapons, signing peace agreements or deploying peacekeeping troops, however essential these elements may be. To ensure lasting peace, security must be supported by economic development.

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room U-506. Corrections will be issued after the end of the session in a consolidated corrigendum.

The year 2010 was crucial for the Peacebuilding Commission, since its fourth session coincided with the review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture. The report of the co-facilitators (A/64/868, annex) and the PBC's own report, which is before us today, are critical documents with respect to understanding the outcomes achieved so far and how to improve upon them.

For me, it is particularly welcome that the Chair of the Commission took part in the review work. In that regard, I would like to highlight one particular aspect, namely, the Commission's synergy with other United Nations bodies. The Commission is engaged with the primary bodies of the United Nations, namely, the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly. The report submitted to us today highlights the fact that the President of the Commission addressed the Security Council many times, that he took part in thematic debates of the sixty-fourth session of the General Assembly on peacekeeping operations, and that the Commission convened two important events with the Economic and Social Council, one on the food crisis and the other on the Millennium Development Goals in countries emerging from conflict.

That is all well and good, but insufficient. In keeping with the recommendations that emerged from the review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture, we need to enhance our interactions in order to spark greater interest in the Commission's work, strengthen synergies and ensure better results on the ground. A more comprehensive approach is needed in the Peacebuilding Commission's work within the United Nations system to achieve greater coherence in its activities.

I now call on the Assembly to hold its debate in the light of the recommendations of the report on the review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture. As the General Assembly is the most representative and most democratic body of the United Nations, it is necessary to consider how the Assembly may fulfil its commitment to the Commission and, more generally, its commitment to peacebuilding.

Member States possess the human, financial and technical resources to support United Nations efforts to build peace on the ground. In that context, the Assembly can play an important role in increasing the effectiveness of the work of the Commission, thereby contributing to the successful transition of countries emerging from conflict to situations of political stability and social and economic development.

Mr. Wittig (Germany): On behalf of the members of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC), I am pleased to present the report of the Commission on its fourth session (A/65/701). Strengthening the peacebuilding agenda, enhancing its impact in the field and providing continued support to the peacebuilding efforts in Burundi, the Central African Republic, Guinea-Bissau and Sierra Leone were at the core of the Commission's work in 2010.

In September 2010, the Commission made Liberia the fifth country on its agenda. Most recently, the Commission responded to the request for advice and support from the Republic of Guinea. That was the first time that such a request was directly submitted to the Commission. In the year 2010, peacebuilding and the future role of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture were very prominently discussed within and outside the United Nations. The review, which was ably guided by my colleagues from Ireland, Mexico and South Africa, offered an opportunity to appreciate the potential of and the challenges facing the Commission. The momentum generated by the 2010 review must be maintained, especially as the Commission further expands its agenda.

The report of the Peacebuilding Commission reflects a collective effort by the members of its Organizational Committee. Progress has been made in addressing recommendations emerging from the 2010 review, in particular in connection with the creation of a new PBC country-specific configuration on Liberia.

The report also reflects the Commission's plan to take forward the recommendations of the review in a way that would facilitate its annual reporting to the General Assembly and the Security Council. The Commission is proceeding in that direction on the basis of a road map of actions in 2011. The road map is focused on meeting practical objectives and making concrete progress in enhancing the Commission's impact on national capacity development and resource mobilization and in aligning key actors behind common peacebuilding objectives.

Allow me to highlight a few elements of the report.

First, the report underscores the Commission's thematic focus during its fourth session, "Partnership for peacebuilding". In view of the complexity of peacebuilding challenges and the multiplicity of actors involved, the need for coherence and partnerships cannot be overemphasized. Building and strengthening partnerships with relevant actors has been identified as a key area of potential value added for the Commission. In that regard, the Organizational Committee devoted most of its efforts and time to engaging the international financial institutions, especially the World Bank, and regional organizations, especially the African Union. The Chair and the Vice-Chairs generally focused on working with a range of potential partners from civil society and academia by holding discussions intended to further deepen awareness and knowledge of the Commission's role and activities.

Secondly, the Commission has given particular priority to strengthening its interactions with the principal organs of the United Nations and its advisory role in that regard. It took steps to generate interest in its work and activities across the membership of the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council. During the reporting period, the Commission witnessed a growing openness and encouraging signs of interest from the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council.

The important thematic debates convened by the Security Council between February 2010 and February 2011 offered recurring opportunities for the Peacebuilding Commission and the United Nations membership and senior leadership to engage with the Council on critical peacebuilding-related policies. The participation of the World Bank in a number of those debates also confirmed the evolving partnership with the Bank at a time when it is further developing its approach to assisting countries emerging from conflict.

Briefings by the Chairs of the country-specific configurations contributed to the Council's periodic consideration of the situations in, and mandates involving, the countries on the Commission's agenda. Most recently, the Council has engaged the Chairs in informal dialogues on the situation in some countries. The outcomes of the thematic debates and the deepening engagement of the Chairs of the PBC's country-specific configurations marked an important step towards more serious consideration by the Council of the Commission's advisory role.

The reporting period also witnessed the continuing development of the Commission's relationship with the Economic and Social Council, through the briefing made by the PBC Chair to the Council's 2010 substantive session. In addition, the Economic and Social Council and the PBC jointly organized a special event on the Millennium Development Goals in countries emerging from conflict. The event attested to the Commission's growing role in advocating an integrated approach to peacebuilding, including through a well-deserved focus on the socio-economic dimension of peacebuilding.

The Commission looks forward to further deepening its linkages with the General Assembly in the future. There is a clear need to bring to bear the Assembly's perspective on the key thematic issues, political and socio-economic alike, under consideration in the Commission.

Thirdly, the Commission continues to receive direct and substantive support from the Peacebuilding Support Office. Notwithstanding its strained capacity, the Office has also been an essential link between the Commission and the operational entities within and outside the United Nations system. The Office has continued to provide regular briefings on the activities and operations of the Peacebuilding Fund. Those briefings helped to deepen understanding of the synergy between the Commission and the Fund in the countries on the Commission's agenda. The recently introduced interaction with the Peacebuilding Fund Advisory Group has provided the Commission with an opportunity to address a number of broad policy issues involving the Fund.

The Fund's resources, combined with the efforts of the Commission, helped to ensure that the countries on the Commission's agenda benefited from the substantial attention and support of the international community, with 64 per cent of total contributions to the Fund being allocated to those countries.

By linking its work to that of peacekeeping, development and political actors in the field, the Peacebuilding Commission has added considerable value. The challenge facing the Commission in demonstrating its full potential, however, is to ensure that its work is backed by a higher level of political commitment from the Member States and senior United Nations leadership. As noted by the co-facilitators in their report on the 2010 review of the United Nations

peacebuilding architecture (A/64/868, annex), the review should be a wake-up call to strengthen the collective resolve to deal with peacebuilding in a more comprehensive and determined way.

I hope that today's debate will take the Assembly a step further towards realizing the full potential of the Commission as an advisory body that is uniquely positioned to help the United Nations meet the challenges it is facing in terms of its collective capacity to deliver on its promises to respond to the needs of millions of people in countries emerging from conflict.

Mr. Gasana (Rwanda): Today's debate represents a unique opportunity for the wider membership of the United Nations to reflect on how we can collectively respond to the plight of millions of people in countries emerging from conflict. While those people have decided to take the path towards peace, that path is usually fraught with enormous challenges.

Historically, the international community has struggled to help countries emerging from conflict meet those challenges. That struggle was caused partly by our inability to understand the complexity of the needs and priorities of the countries concerned, and partly by our inability to sustain attention and focus on those needs and priorities for as long as they deserved.

The Peacebuilding Commission (PBC), the Peacebuilding Fund and the Peacebuilding Support Office were established as dedicated institutional mechanisms to help infuse a new sense of commitment into the cause of sustainable peace. Five years after the Commission, the Fund and the Office started to operate, we can certainly note a qualitative shift in our collective appreciation of the urgent needs of post-conflict societies and the imperative of ensuring a comprehensive and integrated approach to the peacebuilding challenges they face. There is now an urgent need to translate the knowledge and awareness we have developed into operational realities in the field. In my view, we must reflect deeply on whether or not we are capable of taking that essential step towards enabling the Peacebuilding Commission to deliver tangible peace dividends in the field for the people in question.

As my predecessor, the Permanent Representative of Germany, just noted, the Commission has most recently responded to a request for support from the Republic of Guinea, making it the sixth country on the PBC's agenda. The expanding range of countries on the Commission's agenda is not only offering us a wider scope of contributions to peacebuilding, but also adding to the responsibilities, which we must be able to shoulder.

As an advisory body to the General Assembly and the Security Council, the Peacebuilding Commission is not an operational entity similar to traditional United Nations funds and programmes. Rather, it draws enormous political weight and power from the legitimacy it represents and, potentially, the collective commitment of its individual members. I would therefore like to think of today's debate, and of that to be held by the Security Council in two days' time, as presenting opportunities to consider how our individual countries can empower the Commission to exercise its role as a unique political platform for the following five broad functions: first, supporting national stakeholders in projecting their vision for peace and development; secondly, ensuring focused commitments by all actors in support of national ownership and capacity development for national peacebuilding priorities; thirdly, mobilizing resources to fund critical capacities and priorities; fourthly, aligning all actors around common and nationally identified peacebuilding objectives; and, fifthly, promoting mutual accountability between national stakeholders and their regional and international partners.

The recommendations emanating from the recently concluded 2010 review echoed that approach. In addition, the Commission is proceeding on the basis of a road map for actions in 2011, which prioritizes actions around these areas.

As the new Chairperson of the Peacebuilding Commission, I am committed to working with my colleagues the Chairs of the Commission's various groups, the representatives of the countries on the PBC agenda, all Member States, the Peacebuilding Support Office and all relevant United Nations bodies towards achieving tangible progress in taking forward these priority areas. In that respect, allow me to share some reflections on the Commission's planned areas of activities for 2011.

First, I pay tribute to my predecessors, the former Chairs of the PBC, for their commitment to and focus on strengthening partnerships with key actors such as the World Bank, the African Union, the European Union and the African Development Bank. Going forward, the Commission will continue to build on the

progress made so far on this track. The Commission will also continue to explore different approaches to engaging these partners at both the normative and country-specific level of its work.

Similarly, the Commission is planning to proactively engage relevant United Nations departments, agencies, funds and programmes on a range of thematic issues of common interest, such as women's participation in peacebuilding; the impact of rising food prices on countries emerging from conflict; education and youth; and the peacekeeping and peacebuilding nexus.

Secondly, in the same spirit, the PBC is committed to continuing to deepen its interaction with the principal organs of the United Nations. We will build on the important strides made in the relationship with the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council. I also hope that we can place the relationship with the General Assembly on a more dynamic and interactive path. I wish here to thank you personally, Mr. President, for your engagement in that regard. The United Nations contribution to global peacebuilding efforts will certainly be enhanced and further legitimized when the Assembly devotes time to deliberating critical dimensions of the normative development of the concept and the political discourse around it.

Thirdly, I wish to underline the major role that the Secretary-General could play in ensuring system-wide coherence and commitment to peacebuilding, as well as in placing peacebuilding at the core of the United Nations priorities. The Secretary-General's recent reports on peacebuilding in the immediate aftermath of conflict (A/63/881) and women's participation in peacebuilding (A/65/354) have already contributed to the evolution of a more comprehensive and ambitious peacebuilding agenda for the Organization. His continuing engagement with and support for the Commission will certainly help boost our joint efforts to move this agenda forward.

In that regard, we recognize the important role of the Peacebuilding Support Office in linking the activities resulting from the expanding peacebuilding agenda with the work of the Commission. We are also keen to ensure that the Office contributes to deepening our analytical capacity regarding critical peacebuilding priorities, drawing on lessons learned from ongoing and past United Nations experiences relating to these priorities, supporting the development of the Commission's resource mobilization capacity and ensuring synergy between the Commission's engagement with the countries on its agenda and the activities of the Peacebuilding Fund.

(*spoke in French*)

Peacebuilding has taken on renewed momentum since the review of the peacebuilding architecture, both politically and intellectually. However, for our collective efforts in that area to be successful, we must stay the course, especially by mobilizing additional political commitment in order to help populations emerging from conflict to overcome the divisions of the past and have hope in the future. These populations deserve nothing less than our attention and commitment.

Mr. Momen (Bangladesh): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement in the joint debate on the annual report (A/65/701) of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) and the Secretary-General's report on the Peacebuilding Fund (A/65/353).

The Movement wishes to thank you, Mr. President, for organizing this important meeting. We believe that the deliberations in this debate will pave the way for carrying forward the long-held views of Member States on furthering and strengthening the role of the General Assembly in conducting peacebuilding activities. My special thanks go to Ambassador Peter Wittig, former Chair of the PBC, and to the representative of Rwanda, current Chair of the Commission. I would also like to thank the Permanent Representatives members of the PBC review committee, namely, the representatives of Ireland, South Africa and Mexico, for their open, objective and sincere consultations in coming up with good recommendations.

The Movement appreciates the work of the PBC in preparing the annual report delineating its activities during the reporting period. The Movement has also noted with appreciation that the Commission, while preparing that report, took into account the recently concluded review of the peacebuilding architecture. Although the review is not within the purview of regular activity of the Commission, carrying forward its relevant recommendations falls broadly within the context of peacebuilding efforts under the mandate of

the Commission, in cooperation with other entities of the United Nations.

The Movement feels that the report should contain a synopsis outlining a summary of the report in a concise form giving an overview of the whole report. This would have enabled representatives to examine the report in a structured way so that the relevant areas of activity could be considered in synergy with the details in the report.

Turning to specific comments on the report, the Movement would like to see a more structured report that establishes causal relations between what happened and why. In the view of the Movement, the report could include a clear analysis of the Peacebuilding Support Office's actions during the reporting period, so as to provide clear guidance for possible future courses of action for establishing sustainable peace in post-conflict countries. Such logical analysis could establish a clear basis for recommendations for future actions in general and for carrying forward the review's recommendations in particular. I hope that in the future the report will attempt to address such issues in a suitable manner.

With regard to the country-specific configurations, the Movement feels that there should be a general overview for prioritizing activities, including sufficient analysis of background for setting preferences for countries on the PBC agenda. The Movement also feels that the report should contain a concise gap analysis juxtaposing existing scenarios and potential requirements so that sequencing activities in any configuration could be logically framed. In that regard, the report could complement the descriptive/factual listing of all the activities of the country-specific configurations with much needed identification of areas of intersection, mutual expertise and lessons learned between the various configurations.

In the view of the Movement, the analysis and activities of the Commission in the areas of development, particularly in the fields of income-generating activities, job creation and economic revitalization, have not been sufficiently reflected. Although there are references to efforts for youth employment, the report could incorporate more input on views of Member States on other areas of economic revitalization, such as infrastructure development — both tangible and intangible — and empowerment of local people, particularly women, on the ground.

In section III, entitled "Taking forward the relevant recommendations of the 2010 review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture", the report focuses on the areas that have already been addressed by the Commission. In that regard, the Movement would like to see that there has been sufficient reflection of basic principles of peacebuilding activities, which include, among others, national ownership, building national capacities and efforts towards predictable and timely financing of peacebuilding activities. The report could elaborate on how the Commission's activities have contributed in these areas. As we have noted, in the description of events in various areas, such as organized seminars and workshops, the report could elaborate further on the potential impact such events have in achieving the desired objectives.

We have noted with appreciation the Commission's alignment with national strategies for developing a single planning document giving a clear indication of how PBC activities are helping to create national ownership and build national capacities. However, it should further elaborate details on the mode of operation in terms of its real contribution. Similar exercises in other areas, where applicable, would provide a better picture of PBC activities.

We are concerned that the Commission has described its activities only in the area of youth employment under the heading "Developmental aspects of peacebuilding". While we recognize the importance of youth employment as a key developmental aspect, other areas, such as income-generating activities, basic health and education, vocational training and employment of women, cannot be ignored. A fair reflection of all areas, including analysis of strengths and weaknesses in achieving those capacities, would definitely give better guidance for future engagement.

In section IV, the report puts forward conclusions identifying various priorities for increasing the Commission's effectiveness in the field, such as resource mobilization and building partnerships with international financial institutions and regional actors. The Movement feels that the priorities could be further broadened by incorporating more areas, particularly those founded on basic principles of peacebuilding

efforts, such as national capacity-building, the principle of national ownership, South-South cooperation, trilateral cooperation, strengthening the role of the PBC, and engaging women and civil society. It is important that the Commission's annual report contain recommendations on the way forward for the Commission and its activities during the year to come — building on previous achievements and addressing the identified gaps, in such a way that the work and activities of the Commission acquire a cumulative nature, which will enable it to fulfil its responsibilities and achieve its goals and objectives.

Turning to the Secretary-General's report on the Peacebuilding Fund, the Movement agrees with the findings of the study that the Fund is a critical instrument for dealing with peacebuilding activities. However, we believe that the Fund needs to be handled properly, with the utmost efficiency and transparency, in order to achieve its desired goals. In that regard, the Movement wishes to see the Peacebuilding Support Office put forward its best efforts to make it a fast, relevant and catalytic instrument for establishing sustainable peace by preventing relapses into violent conflict.

As of 30 June 2010, total contributions to the Fund had increased by almost 10.5 per cent, from $309 million in June 2009 to $342 million in June 2010. We thank the Member States that have participated in this valuable contribution. We also urge other Member States in a position to do so to contribute to the cause of establishing sustainable peace and security. We also note that use of the Fund has increased, from 45.6 per cent in June 2009 to 59.9 per cent in June 2010.

However, it does not seem that the Fund is being optimally used overall. We therefore urge the Secretariat to intensify its efforts to work more closely with relevant stakeholders, particularly representatives of host countries, to ensure greater, more effective and more efficient use of the Peacebuilding Fund so that it fulfils its purpose of achieving sustainable peace. We also urge the Secretariat to further intensify its cooperation to broaden the donor base so that attainable peace is not held hostage to a paucity of funds that were not mobilized owing to insufficient coordination.

Furthermore, there is an urgent need to clarify our vision with respect to the relationship between the Peacebuilding Commission and Peacebuilding Fund. In spite of the Fund's independence, further improvements, under the authority of the Secretary-General, are required to enhance coordination and coherence between its activities and the funding programmes for projects being implemented in the countries on the agenda of the Peacebuilding Commission. The role of the Commission in providing guidance for the Fund's policies, which are to be implemented under the supervision of the administrative agent, should also be assessed. Those issues must be further discussed while taking forward the recommendations of the review of the Commission.

As we have mentioned repeatedly, post-conflict peacebuilding activities should be conducted through intense and effective consultations among the main organs of the United Nations, such as the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council, in coordination with the PBC. In today's context, it is the General Assembly. As the various entities cooperate and coordinate, sufficient attention needs to be given to representational inclusiveness.

Just as it is difficult to establish the direct cause of a conflict, it is also difficult to incorporate experiences and expertise into efforts to address the problem. Hence, assimilating the views of the broader United Nations membership in peacebuilding activities will pave the way for duplicating and contextualizing diverse nation-building experiences in peacebuilding efforts. The Movement therefore agrees with the recommendations of the co-facilitators of the review of the peacebuilding architecture that the co-parenting role of the General Assembly should be more visible and meaningful. The Movement is always ready to extend necessary support and cooperation wherever and whenever needed.

Finally, let me conclude by reiterating the Movement's assurances of constructive and meaningful engagement in all future peacebuilding activities.

Mr. Kőrösi (Hungary): I thank you, Sir, for giving the floor to the European Union. The candidate countries Turkey, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Montenegro; the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia; as well as Ukraine align themselves with this declaration.

Supporting countries emerging from conflict is a moral obligation and the responsibility of the international community. We cannot fail to meet this challenge. The United Nations, with its global legitimacy and broad range of instruments, has a key role to play in helping to build lasting peace. That is why the European Union has been actively engaged in the work of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) since its creation six years ago.

In recent months, we have taken important steps to strengthen our support to countries emerging from conflict. We have held important debates and concrete initiatives are under way to enhance the coherence and the effectiveness of our engagement. In the same vein, the PBC has continued to raise the awareness of the international community about the countries on the Commission's agenda and has proven its added value in different situations. The supportive political role played by the PBC during the elections in Burundi and its active role in Sierra Leone to foster job creation and create economic opportunities are good examples.

The European Union is also encouraged to see that two new countries, Liberia and Guinea, have decided to put themselves forward for referral. Moreover, two very important reviews have been carried out.

The first review (see S/2011/85) pertains to the deployment of civilian capacity and was conducted by the Senior Advisory Group, chaired by Mr. Jean-Marie Guéhenno. The review is a key contribution towards ensuring the deployment of more flexible, demand-driven and better-qualified civilian expertise in a timely fashion on the ground with a view to helping national actors build their own capacity in peacebuilding-related areas.

The European Union attaches great importance to the follow-up of the recommendations, and we hope that the review will result in the increased global availability of civilian experts for post-conflict situations and in the seamless interoperability of civilian capacities within the United Nations system and between the United Nations and other key players, such as the regional organizations.

Another important point for the European Union is the enhanced deployment of female civilian experts in the spirit of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) and the Secretary-General's action plan on ensuring women's participation in peacebuilding (see S/2010/466). Post-conflict institutions cannot be effective without gender equality. The PBC should play an important role in championing the civilian capacity review.

The second review is the 2010 PBC review (see S/2010/393, annex) carried out by the three co-facilitators. The result is a very thoughtful assessment of the PBC architecture, which brought forward numerous ambitious recommendations to increase the impact of that body.

The time to look ahead is now. We need to capitalize on the political momentum generated by the 2010 PBC review process by utilizing all means at our disposal to face the numerous challenges ahead. Those challenges include the electoral processes in the Central African Republic and Liberia, the reform of the security sector in Guinea-Bissau and Guinea, and the promotion of youth opportunities in Sierra Leone, to mention but a few examples.

In all of these scenarios, the PBC can and must make a difference. In order to deliver, we need to redouble our efforts and strive for a more relevant PBC, underpinned by genuine national ownership across the board. Hence, improvements have to be made in the field and at Headquarters through better analysis, a sharper focus on the key bottlenecks to peace in a given country, and the establishment of mutual commitments between the Government and the international community to address those difficulties. All of that will put the PBC in a much better position to achieve results, as will the proposals for the PBC to take a flexible approach to its country work.

To conclude, as a strong believer in peacebuilding, the European Union stands ready to intensify its efforts and enable the United Nations peacebuilding architecture to live up to the expectations that accompanied its establishment.

Mrs. Viotti (Brazil): Brazil thanks you, Sir, for convening this debate on the annual report (A/65/701) of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC). We appreciate the possibility of discussing, in the broad setting of the General Assembly, the work undertaken by the Commission in the past year and a half. I also take this opportunity to thank Ambassador Peter Wittig for his excellent leadership in 2010 as Chair of the PBC, which we greatly appreciated. We wish Ambassador Gasana every success in his endeavours and pledge our full support to him.

Last year was marked by the review process of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture. We express our appreciation to the three facilitators. The recommendations they made offer useful guidance for our future activities and will enhance the PBC's effectiveness on the ground. It is our responsibility to take them forward. My delegation looks forward to continuing this discussion in the Commission and in other bodies relevant to its work.

In spite of the progress made, many difficult challenges lie ahead. They arise from the very nature of peacebuilding, which requires concerted action and strong commitments from national actors and the international community alike in fragile environments and through processes that do not always follow a linear path.

I will briefly address three areas in which, we believe, further progress may be obtained: the integrated and multidimensional nature of peacebuilding, partnerships, and relationships with other relevant United Nations bodies.

Building peace requires a long-term and sustained effort in a variety of fields. While initial challenges usually relate to security and stability, economic and social actions must not be relegated to a later stage. All of those goals are mutually reinforcing and should therefore be pursued simultaneously within an integrated framework. It is not possible to achieve sustained stability without economic and social progress, and the opposite is equally true. Helping countries emerging from conflict to restore the provision of basic services, re-establish core functions of public administration, revitalize the economy and fight poverty is an effective way to achieve long-lasting peace, security and stability. Those countries have repeatedly expressed their opinion that social and developmental aspects are urgent priorities for them.

The international community should heed this call and adapt its assistance to those national priorities, alongside the support already given in areas such as justice and security. The international community should also focus on helping countries to build and strengthen their institutions. Those institutions are indispensable to enhancing national ownership and will allow for stronger public administration.

For example, in the case of Guinea-Bissau, progress made in the areas of economic management and public finance, with the support of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, contributed to economic growth and increased fiscal revenue. Approval of debt relief within the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Debt Initiative, and which was advocated by the PBC country-specific configuration, will create better conditions for the Government to manage its budget and to start investing in important peacebuilding priorities, such as security sector reform and provision of basic services. This is just one example of how institution-building and economic recovery might, through an integrated approach, impact positively on the security situation.

Another important aspect of this integrated approach must be support for policies to empower women. Our experiences within the Guinea-Bissau configuration have consistently shown that the active participation of women in the political and economic fields is crucial to peacebuilding and restoring war-torn societies. The contributions women can offer are numerous. In agriculture, for example, they can further economic revitalization and secure the livelihood of their families.

Youth employment is another matter of concern and an area where the PBC configurations are striving to achieve meaningful results. In Guinea-Bissau, hundreds of young people have been trained in various skills with resources provided by the Peacebuilding Fund. We could not agree more with the stress placed by the Permanent Representative of Bangladesh, on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement, on the need to integrate other development aspects besides youth employment — such as income-generating activities, basic health care and education, vocational training and the employment of women — into peacebuilding strategies. We are convinced that only sustained and multidimensional efforts focused on the root causes of conflicts will create the necessary conditions for the long-term progress and stability of countries emerging from conflict.

The PBC should continue to seek enhanced partnerships with a variety of actors. Reaching out to regional and subregional organizations is also indispensable to galvanizing the support of neighbouring countries in tackling common challenges, as well as in exchanging experiences. In West Africa, for example, the Economic Community of West African States has been a pivotal actor in shoring up our activities. It is clear that our course of action must

be outlined not only in New York, but also in close coordination with stakeholders in the affected region.

We echo the calls for better interaction between the PBC and the principal United Nations organs. The PBC would greatly benefit from an enhanced dialogue with the Economic and Social Council on the social and economic aspects of peacebuilding, besides achieving greater transparency and effectiveness in its actions. The same goes for the Security Council, which we think should resort more often to the advice of the PBC when discussing the mandates of missions in countries on the Commission's agenda.

In February, during the Brazilian presidency, the Security Council held an interactive dialogue on the United Nations Integrated Office in Burundi with the Chair of the country-specific configuration, Ambassador Paul Seger. We hope that such initiatives will continue. We have seen in our work the importance of partnerships with the international financial institutions. We will continue to strive for enhanced interaction with those institutions.

More than a compilation of activities, the annual report of the PBC is a good reference to define what additional steps should be taken to improve its results. We could not agree more with the conclusion that the Commission should concentrate on improving its effectiveness in the field. Linking with actors on the ground and with national stakeholders must remain a concern of all of us.

Brazil is committed to doing its best to help to improve the transparency, legitimacy and effectiveness of the PBC with a focus on fostering national ownership, supporting the development of local capacities and assisting the countries emerging from conflict to advance on a sustainable path towards stability and development.

Sir Mark Lyall Grant (United Kingdom): I would like to thank you, Sir, for organizing this debate, which provides a useful opportunity to take stock of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) and Peacebuilding Fund (PBF). I would first like to give particular thanks to Ambassador Wittig for his dedicated efforts in chairing the Organizational Committee. I would also like to thank the Permanent Representatives of Canada, Belgium, Brazil, Jordan, Nepal and Switzerland and their respective teams for their chairing roles, and the Peacebuilding Support Office for its support.

The annual report (A/65/701) describes a number of achievements the PBC made during the past year in its central, country-based work. They include the PBC's support to the elections in Burundi and the Central African Republic, where it has also helped maintain momentum behind the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process. We welcome the joint meetings that have been held on drugs and youth unemployment, which have helped to galvanize thinking and action across the West African region. The PBC's rapid take-up and engagement with Liberia has been impressive, and there are useful lessons for other country engagements.

But there are some areas where less progress has been made. They include Guinea-Bissau, where peacebuilding has been stymied as a result of the political and security situation. The PBC review was also an important milestone last year, and I would like to thank the Permanent Representatives of Ireland, Mexico and South Africa for their report. The most important set of recommendations that came out of that process are those concerned with improving the PBC's impact on the countries on its agenda.

For the year ahead, under the leadership of the Rwandan Permanent Representative, Ambassador Gasana, we need to see the fruits of this. We need to see genuine progress in the implementation of the Economic Community of West African States road map on security sector reform in Guinea-Bissau, the establishment of regional justice hubs in Liberia, and rapid agreement on the commitments between the Government and the international community for addressing the bottlenecks to peace in Guinea, notably in security sector reform.

But it is important to underline that we cannot simply sit back and hope that the respective country Chairs deliver results. As noted in the PBC review, we each have a responsibility — whether bilaterally or through our representation on United Nations organs, regional organizations or international financial institutions — to support the Chairs in their efforts. The United Kingdom reiterates its commitment to helping ensure that such progress is made. It is only by achieving results that the PBC will become an influential and critical part of the international peacebuilding architecture.

This year, the PBC can also play a key role in championing the civilian capacity review. We also

think that the Commission should link up with the new grouping of 17 fragile and conflict-affected countries to take on board their assessment of the international community's peacebuilding performance, which will emerge during the course of the year.

The Peacebuilding Fund also has an important part to play. The United Kingdom's Department for International Development has recently completed a review of the PBF as part of its multilateral aid review. Overall, the findings of the PBF review were positive, and the Fund was considered to have performed well against the review's criteria. In light of this result, I am pleased to announce that the Department for International Development will make a new contribution to the Fund of more than $40 million over the next two years.

I would like to congratulate Judy Cheng-Hopkins and her team on the significant progress made in improving the management of the Fund. There are, however, areas where the PBF still requires significant improvement. These include demonstrating that it is achieving concrete results and controlling costs, while at the same time ensuring that it remains flexible and adds value as a catalytic, system-wide instrument.

Mr. Tarar (Pakistan): I thank you, Sir, for convening today's debate. I also thank the Permanent Representative of Germany for ably guiding the work of the Organizational Committee of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) in 2010 and extend our best wishes to the current Chair, the Permanent Representative of Rwanda.

The fourth session of the PBC, covered in the annual report under consideration (A/65/701), was a landmark not only for the Commission but also for United Nations peacebuilding endeavours as a whole. In that regard, I will mention three areas of particular significance.

First, having completed its first five years, the PBC conducted a first review of its work, as mandated in its founding resolution 60/180. The Permanent Representatives of Ireland, Mexico and South Africa made commendable efforts as co-facilitators of the review process. As we take forward the recommendations of that process this year, we believe that key areas of focus should include strict prioritization of targeted areas, focusing on security sector reform, local capacity-building and economic revitalization; a sharper emphasis on the development aspects of peacebuilding; and fine-tuning the linkage between peacekeeping and peacebuilding. Similarly, aligning the strategic frameworks for countries on the PBC's agenda with respective national priorities and policies, under complete local ownership, is important to ensure successful peacebuilding efforts.

Secondly, interest in the work of the PBC increased as country-specific configurations refined their roles. Individual configurations undertook important initiatives in resource mobilization and developing synergies with international financial institutions.

Thirdly, a better understanding of the challenges and complexities of peacebuilding efforts developed last year as countries like Burundi and Sierra Leone successfully managed their progress on the road to sustainable peace. Similarly, Liberia entered into its partnership with the PBC following the success of the United Nations Mission in Liberia in extinguishing the fires of conflict and war. Those experiences will go a long way towards constructing a consensual discourse on peacebuilding at the global level and creating templates for successful peacebuilding strategies to be applied in post-conflict zones.

The success of United Nations peacebuilding endeavours hinges on financial resources. In this context, the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) provided the seed money in a post-conflict situation to attract other sources of finance. The PBF is an essential component of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture. The Secretary-General has set a target of disbursing $100 million each year in the next three years from the PBF. We believe that this target is commensurate with the challenges ahead. Achieving it will require donations from Member States, which have been aptly characterized as an investment in peace.

The PBF has been criticized for lacking transparency and a proper monitoring or evaluation system, as well as for making slow disbursements. While most of these concerns are valid to some extent, understaffing in the PBF's management is one of the plausible causes. Member States and the Secretariat should provide the Fund with the human resources and operational flexibility needed to make it more efficient. We are happy to note that, during the most recent pledging session, held in November, more than 30 countries pledged contributions. Pakistan also

contributed to the Fund, despite financial constraints resulting from the worst floods in our history.

Pakistan is a founding member of the Organizing Committee of the PBC. In 2003 and 2004, Pakistan proposed the creation of an ad hoc composite committee for peacebuilding. Two years later, that proposal crystallized into the PBC. Over the past five years, we have actively contributed to the Commission's work. As the largest contributor of troops to United Nations peacekeeping missions, Pakistan has a vital stake in successful peacebuilding efforts. We hope that, with our collective efforts, the peacebuilding architecture of the United Nations will become a strong citadel of hope for the conflict-ridden people of the world.

Mr. Kleib (Indonesia): I would like to begin by thanking you, Sir, for having convened this joint debate to deliberate on the two important reports before us. In this regard, we express our deep appreciation to the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) for its annual report (A/65/701) and to the Secretary-General for his report (A/65/353) on the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF).

We wish to thank Ambassador Peter Wittig of Germany, who served as Chair of the Commission in 2010. Under his able chairmanship, we saw the Commission go through an evolution in its focus on its efforts to improve its impact in the field. We commend, among other things, the outreach activities with key partners, promoting a better understanding of the Commission.

Indonesia associates itself with the statement delivered by the representative of Bangladesh on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement caucus in the PBC.

As a member of the PBC, Indonesia is very pleased to see both the Commission and the Fund progress in the achievement of their respective mandates. The work of the Organizational Committee and the country configurations — which, with the addition of Guinea, now number six — demonstrates the Commission's dedication and commitment to bettering the countries in on the PBC agenda and to enhancing global attention to and support for post-conflict peacebuilding as a key issue of our times.

It is heartening to learn that in the United Nations system, including in the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council, there have been numerous important discussions over the past year on various aspects of post-conflict peacebuilding. We welcome these increased interactions, which need to be continued and nurtured. We hope that this greater focus on peacebuilding will not only enable greater collaboration among the United Nations organs, but will also allow for strengthened partnerships with relevant entities outside the United Nations system.

Effective peacebuilding demands a comprehensive approach and the General Assembly, with its wide-ranging purview, is a very appropriate forum to examine how the international community can improve its post-conflict response and, in that regard, how the PBC and PBF can be further strengthened and supported.

Both reports outline many important directions, and Indonesia fully agrees with the core point that post-conflict efforts must be nationally identified, nationally owned and nationally driven, but with full and sustained assistance from the United Nations, the region and international community.

With regard to the PBC, my delegation would like to dwell on the following few points. First, it is critical that the peacekeeping-peacebuilding nexus be reflected on the ground from the very outset. No two situations are similar, yet the overwhelming evidence from countries emerging from conflict shows that efforts to build and nurture local and national institutions and to foster economic development, security, the rule of law, justice, governance, and other essential services must be made while the peacekeeping process is still in progress. The early development of domestic capacities in such areas solidifies the foundations upon which any broader peacebuilding depends.

In this context, Indonesia welcomes the recent release of the independent report commissioned by the Secretary-General on the civilian capacity in the immediate aftermath of conflict (A/65/747). We look forward to actively participating in both the deliberation of this important report and in taking forward its recommendations.

We are also of the view that the review should focus, as many have emphasized, on efforts to create needs-based civilian capacities mechanisms, in which the expertise comes primarily from the States concerned, the region, the South and women. The PBC, with its vast experience, knowledge and diverse

membership, should explore how it can build greater support for and facilitate the fulfilment of civilian capacities for peacebuilding activities, in support of countries emerging from conflict, especially to countries on its agenda.

Secondly, it is very important that the PBC also continue to take forward the relevant recommendations of the 2010 review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture. In this context, the pertinent bodies of the United Nations, including the General Assembly, should also enhance their parenting and backing of the PBC. We support the Commission's approach of using a practical mechanism to track the progress made in implementing the report's recommendations. Indonesia will do its part to contribute to the realization of the recommendations.

Thirdly, we concur with the PBC that there is a need for a single overall planning document. A single national peacebuilding document outlining strategies and priorities developed by the host Government would improve coordination among the national and international partners concerned. It would also simplify the monitoring and documentation requirements for the Governments of post-conflict countries. This single document would help in the development of expeditious, more focused and coherent engagement frameworks by the Commission. It would further enable early support, more closely built on and aligned with national priorities. In this regard, we appreciate the work done with respect to Sierra Leone, the Central African Republic, Burundi and, more recently, Liberia.

Fourthly, Indonesia considers the PBC's mandated task of marshalling resources to be central to the Commission's work in continuing to prove its added value with concrete, country-specific results. In this respect, we welcome and support the efforts of the PBC to bolster its partnerships with the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and regional financial institutions. We note that the Organizational Committee and Working Group on Lessons Learned have also explored innovative sources of funding from private capital.

Indonesia, during its membership of the Commission in 2008, had the privilege to facilitate the first-ever PBC task force on the private sector's role in post-conflict peacebuilding. The task force produced consensus recommendations on how to engage in particular with non-traditional actors in the private sector. It is our expectation that the outcome of the PBC task force will be utilized to forge partnerships, yielding further financial and non-financial benefits for the countries on the Commission's agenda. Indonesia stands ready to continue making its contribution to the realization of the task force recommendations.

With regard to the Peacebuilding Fund, Indonesia is pleased to note that the Fund is now generating benefits in 16 countries, with one of the broadest donor bases among the United Nations multi-donor trust funds. This signifies the Fund's importance internationally, as well as the expectation that it will produce quick and robust peace dividends. We expect the efficiency and impact of the Fund to increase further.

We note that efforts have been made to enhance consultation with the PBC and to report regularly. There also needs to be greater involvement and policy advice from the General Assembly. We welcome the steps to improve the monitoring of the Fund's operations, and expect that the implementation rate of the Fund's projects will be commensurate with its growing role. The combination of the short-term Immediate Response Facility and the longer-term country-determined Peacebuilding and Recovery Facility has given the needed flexibility to the Fund. But it remains imperative that the work of the Fund be fully aligned with the priority plans of the respective countries.

Let me conclude by underling the importance of regular interaction, cooperation and coherence among the PBC, the PBF, the Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO), the Department for Political Affairs, the United Nations Development Programme and other relevant actors of the United Nations system. The multiplicity of factors in post-conflict conditions can be addressed effectively only if the relevant United Nations units work with synergy. Furthermore, as the nexus of peacebuilding and peacekeeping becomes greater, it is essential that a sustained effort be made to encourage and institute greater communication and collaboration between the PBC and the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, on the one hand, and the PBSO and the Department for Peacekeeping Operations, on the other.

Mr. Grauls (Belgium) (*spoke in French*): At the outset, I wish to thank Ambassador Wittig and his team for their dynamic leadership of the Organizational

Committee during the period covered by the report of the Peacebuilding Commission before us today (A/65/701). I also convey my greetings to his successor, Ambassador Gasana, whom I wish a successful year.

Belgium aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union, and I will not repeat what has already been said in that regard. I do wish, however, to make some brief remarks in my national capacity in the light of my experience as Chair of the Central African Republic country-specific configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission.

The past year gave us the opportunity to take stock of the peacebuilding architecture five years after its creation. The diagnosis and outcome of the review of this young, fast-growing structure are that, despite its growing pains and learning curve, it possesses the potential to mobilize the attention, support and resources that are indispensable to countries emerging from crisis.

Over the past year, the five-year review of the Peacebuilding Commission mobilized significant resources and capacities. Belgium therefore encourages all interested parties to assume their responsibilities forthwith on the basis of the excellent recommendations of the co-facilitators, whom I wish to take this opportunity to thank once again. More specifically, we call on the parent bodies of the Peacebuilding Commission to give it the means and attention its mandate requires.

With regard to the Peacebuilding Support Office, we hope above all that it will henceforth devote a greater proportion of its staff and activities to directly supporting the countries on the agenda of the Commission. We call on the United Nations system as a whole to take account of the coordination and facilitation role entrusted to the Support Office. Finally, we encourage all of the members of the Commission to collaborate more closely within the country-specific configurations in support of the countries on the agenda.

For its part, the Central African Republic configuration has integrated the recommendations of the five-year review into its programme of work by setting seven priority objectives: first, to strengthen the links between our configuration and the Security Council and the General Assembly; secondly, to strengthen the links among the three pillars of the peacebuilding architecture and with the rest of the United Nations system supporting the Central African Republic; thirdly, to support the alignment of peacebuilding partners through joint strategic planning tools; fourthly, to strengthen the capacities of the national Government and civil society; fifthly, to build our own resource mobilization capacity; sixthly, reconsider the presence of our configuration in the country and its visibility on the ground; and, finally, to draw up on the lessons learned by other country-specific configurations.

My delegation also notes with satisfaction the considerable improvements made by the Secretariat in terms of the speed, effectiveness and impact of the Peacebuilding Fund. We must note, however, that the catalytic aspect of the Fund still requires a great deal of attention. Here, better use of the potential synergy between the Fund and the Commission could undoubtedly contribute to further mobilizing bilateral partners around jointly identified peacebuilding priorities.

I conclude by recalling the active commitment and solidarity of Belgium in favour of peacebuilding, including through its various contributions to the United Nations peacebuilding architecture.

Ms. Okai (Japan): It is my great pleasure to address the General Assembly under the presidency of His Excellency Mr. Joseph Deiss during this debate on the report (A/65/701) of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) and the report of the Secretary-General (A/65/353) on the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF). I would like to express Japan's gratitude to the former Chair of the PBC, His Excellency Mr. Peter Wittig, for his in-depth report and his able leadership of the work of the PBC during the year 2010.

At the outset, I would like to take this opportunity to touch upon the massive earthquake and tsunami that occurred recently in Japan. The Government of Japan and our people are making every possible effort to recover from the aftermath of these catastrophic events. I express my sincere gratitude for the heartfelt condolences and assistance extended to Japan by many countries, international organizations and other members of the international community in an effort to help us overcome the tragedy. We are convinced that, with the support of our partners, we will be able to overcome the daunting challenges currently confronting us.

Japan believes that the activities of the PBC during its fourth session, including the five-year review and the establishment of a country-specific configuration of the PBC for Liberia, were of particular significance. Looking ahead, I would like to offer a few points that Japan considers important in advancing the activities of the Commission.

First, one of the priority issues for the PBC under the leadership of the new Chair, His Excellency Mr. Eugène-Richard Gasana, is to consider how we can best take forward the recommendations of the review in order to yield a tangible impact on the ground, including in the six countries on the PBC's agenda. Japan, in its capacity as the new Chair of the Working Group on Lessons Learned, intends to actively engage the Working Group to contribute to the implementation of the recommendations of the review and to the strengthening of the added value of the PBC. As we have already informed the members of the PBC, the Working Group is aiming to make concrete proposals on issues relevant to the advancement of the recommendations of the PBC review, including resource mobilization on priorities, economic revitalization, youth employment, the modality of the PBC's engagement in forthcoming agenda countries, and the strengthening of the relationship between the PBC and the Security Council.

Secondly, at the upcoming meeting of the Working Group on Lessons Learned, Japan, as Chair, intends to highlight the issue of coordination in effective resource mobilization for peacebuilding priorities. For better resource mobilization and coordination, it is essential that peacebuilding priorities be shared and promoted through an integrated approach, especially among host Governments, the United Nations country teams, the PBF and international partners, including the World Bank.

Most importantly, we believe that this integrated approach must be facilitated by strong leadership on the ground. The Working Group will examine whether the respective country configurations have succeeded in this endeavour and identify the obstacles in cases in which countries are having difficulties. Through this exercise, we intend to make proposals as to what steps the PBC and relevant stakeholders may wish to take in moving forward.

Thirdly, with regard to the financial situation of the PBF, it is encouraging to see the steady expansion of the donor base. Expectations of the PBF have also expanded because of the increase in the number of eligible countries and additional allocations to existing recipients. As one of the Fund's major contributors, the Government of Japan will make an additional contribution of $12.5 million to the PBF in 2011.

The unique role of the PBF is to have a catalytic effect to address critical gaps in the peacebuilding process, in particular in areas for which no other funding mechanism is available. Since its establishment, the PBF has addressed, as a catalytic instrument, the immediate needs of countries emerging from or at risk of relapsing into conflict under different circumstances.

It is Japan's view that, given the flexibility and rapid response capability of the PBF, its allocations should be focused more closely on needs that may not be covered by other resources. We believe that the PBF will achieve higher value through more effective utilization of its limited resources if partners can attain a stronger shared recognition of appropriate allocation of resources in proper sequence. As the Chair of the Working Group on Lessons Learned, we also intend to take up this issue in the upcoming meeting.

I conclude my remarks today by reiterating Japan's continuing commitment to working closely with members and partners of the Peacebuilding Commission, including the General Assembly, for the improvement of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture.

Ms. Taracena Secaira (Guatemala) (*spoke in Spanish*): As a country that has recently joined the Peacebuilding Commission, we thank you, Mr. President, for convening this joint debate and for circulating the report of the Peacebuilding Commission (A/65/701) and the report of the Secretary-General on the Peacebuilding Fund (A/65/353). We also thank the former Chair of the Commission, Ambassador Peter Wittig, for the cogent briefing he gave us this morning on the Commission's fourth session and for the road map he has proposed for its future activities. We welcome the progress described in that presentation.

We also thank the Permanent Representatives of Ireland, Mexico and South Africa for their work and for showing us the way towards achieving greater relevance and added value in the Commission's work. We wish Ambassador Gasana of Rwanda every success in his work this year.

Like other representatives who have spoken before us, we believe that the Commission has already demonstrated its usefulness in the constellation of available intergovernmental forums. It has especially shown its potential for ensuring greater consistency in the decisions of the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council. We agree with the idea often repeated here today that much more can still be done to improve the work of the Commission. As a new member of the Commission and its Organizational Committee, we are committed to doing everything possible to contribute to a successful fifth session.

Among its many virtues is the Commission's intrinsic approach of focusing on specific situations rather than on general concepts and on particular actions rather than on universal ideas. We have repeatedly called for increased cooperation between the United Nations and multilateral financial institutions, because the Commission has the greatest potential to give genuine and effective substance to the work of all United Nations bodies, in its broadest sense, and to help them operate in a coordinated and coherent fashion.

We especially value the work of the country configurations, which are the forums in which the principle of peacebuilding and its implementation in specific instances truly come together. Even though it is now trite to say that we must avoid one-size-fits-all remedies, it is absolutely true that every circumstance is unique and requires policies and actions that respond to its uniqueness.

As newcomers in that body, we continue to entertain lingering doubts about the criteria for selecting country configurations. It is only logical that our organizational capacities and limited human and financial resources make a selection process necessary, but should we choose those countries most in need of a proactive agent like the United Nations, or should we choose countries with the greatest potential for success? Should it be a combination of the two? Let us recall that the very idea of peacebuilding involves the concept of transition or graduation, if necessary, during which the target countries develop to the point where they no longer require our presence, freeing us to take on other cases.

We have two further comments. The first has to do with the relationship between the Organizational Committee to the country configurations. On a number of occasions, we have seen all the Chairs of the country configurations speak through a single spokesperson, usually one of the Chairs, rather than through the Chair of the Organizational Committee. We believe that the highest authority among the three iterations of the entire Commission is the Chair of the Organizational Committee, whose role includes coordinating the work of the country configurations and the Working Group on Lessons Learned.

Our second comment concerns the great utility of the Peacebuilding Fund. My own country was recently assisted by the Fund in strengthening the institutionalization of the security and justice sectors. What is interesting in this support from the Fund is that the Guatemalan peace accords were signed almost 15 years ago, and yet remnants of the conflict remain as obstacles to achieving a solid rule of law and which, at least in theory, could provoke a backsliding towards renewed conflict. This highlights the wisdom of having two Facilities in the Fund — one for the short term and another for the medium and long terms.

Finally, we understand that the Security Council will discuss the report on 23 March, when it could focus on how to continue to develop its relationship with the PBC, make better use of its advisory capacity, improve its interaction with country-specific configurations, and ensure that the innovations of the PBC and the United Nations peacebuilding architecture are reflected in the Council's work. I believe that this would lead to greater coherency in the efforts of the main organs of the United Nations and the scope of their activities in specific countries.

Mr. McNee (Canada): As a committed member of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) and a major donor to the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF), Canada welcomes the progress made by both institutions. As its annual report illustrates (A/65/701), the Peacebuilding Commission has evolved considerably over the course of its lifespan, with much innovation and experimentation coming in the past two years. In this light, allow me to briefly speak to four areas that deserve continued attention.

First, the PBC needs to maintain a flexible, multitiered approach. The country-configuration model has proved an effective means of engaging with countries recovering from conflict. The inclusion of Liberia and Guinea on the Peacebuilding

Commission's agenda not only demonstrates progress, but also further underscores the need to adjust to each post-conflict context. The PBC must continue to put this approach into practice, including by further refining its lighter forms of engagement.

Secondly, Canada stresses the importance of closer cooperation with field-level peacebuilding. The Commission's engagement must be aligned with existing national strategies and complementary to the work of relevant peacebuilding actors on the ground. In this respect, Canada welcomes recent attempts to draw more effectively on the national resources available within the full membership of the country configurations.

Thirdly, the proliferation of peacebuilding actors reinforces the need for a thematic focal point to bring coherence and impetus to broader peacebuilding efforts. The Peacebuilding Commission can productively enhance its role as a forum for supporting reform processes, sharing best practices and debating outstanding institutional challenges. In this respect, support for the implementation of the review of international civilian capacities and progress on the immediate aftermath of conflict will be particularly valuable. Better fulfilling this role will require an increased willingness to draw on expertise resident within the wider peacebuilding community. As its experience builds, the Commission will be also be better placed to systematize the lessons learned from its own work.

Finally, the Commission must continue to develop stronger partnerships with other peacebuilding actors, including regional organizations, the international financial institutions and civil society. This is also true within the United Nations, where there is an enduring need for closer relationships with the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Security Council. In Canada's view, enhanced cooperation between the Security Council and Peacebuilding Commission holds particular promise. Building on recent interactive discussions, a more effective working relationship between the two bodies based on a clearer mutual understanding of the Commission's role should continue to be explored.

Canada congratulates the Peacebuilding Fund for the many contributions, amply demonstrated in the Secretary-General's report, it has made towards supporting and building sustainable peace. Canada supports the work of the Peacebuilding Fund and has contributed $25 million to its operations since its inception in 2006. Further, Canada, as part of its multi-year funding agreement signed last year, will contribute $5 million to the Fund in 2011, with a further $5 million planned for 2012.

(*spoke in French*)

Though the Fund's long-term impact on peacebuilding cannot yet be fully assessed, Canada is encouraged by an increased focus on results and reporting. Assessing and evaluating the impacts of peacebuilding interventions is key to ensuring that the Fund is indeed making a meaningful contribution to sustainable peace. Canada supports, inter alia, the Peacebuilding Fund's efforts to strengthen its strategic focus and purpose. We would further welcome renewed clarification on the Fund's unique catalytic role and unique comparative advantage within broader United Nations peacebuilding efforts. Canada also underscores the continuing need to more closely examine the links between the Fund's activities and those of other humanitarian and development funding mechanisms in order to achieve maximum impact and avoid the duplication of efforts.

Finally, Canada welcomes the Peacebuilding Fund's efforts to address the challenges it faces, and encourages the Fund to continue learning strategic lessons from its growing experience.

In closing, let me highlight the importance of building on the progress made so far. The expansion in scope of the Peacebuilding Commission's agenda and the increasing sophistication of the Peacebuilding Fund's activities clearly show the need for the members of that body to continue to focus on strengthening the United Nations peacebuilding architecture. Finally, Canada stands ready to play an active role in advancing this agenda.

Mr. Vilović (Croatia): At the outset, I would like to thank you, Mr. President, for having organized this important and timely debate. I would also like to thank Ambassador Wittig for his presentation of the 2010 report (A/65/701) of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) and to congratulate him and his team for their excellent chairmanship of the PBC last year.

Croatia aligns itself with the statement delivered earlier in this debate on behalf of the European Union.

With respect to peacekeeping and peacebuilding concepts, underlying ideas and existing practices, the past year was undoubtedly exceptionally dynamic and revealing. A thorough examination was undertaken of the basic outlines and overall achievements of peacekeeping operations and, in that context, renewed attention was given to the peacekeeping-peacebuilding nexus. This new approach, together with the comprehensive and forward-looking recommendations arising out of the recently completed review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture, created momentum that we hope will lead to an adequate re-evaluation of peacebuilding within overall efforts aimed at building sustainable peace. Our sincere hope is that the aforementioned exercise will result in a new appreciation of peacebuilding efforts and a readiness to deal with the issue and its financial implications in a more comprehensive and determined manner.

Croatia welcomes the PBC's attempts to play a more central role in the evolving United Nations peacebuilding agenda by improving its impact on the ground through better analysis and by galvanizing action around critical and country-specific peacebuilding priorities. The recent addition to the PBC's agenda of Liberia and Guinea, the latter being the first country added to the agenda exclusively at its own request and without a referral from the Security Council, articulately testifies to the aforementioned point.

Croatia strongly supports the Commission's efforts to develop flexible and adaptable instruments of engagement with the countries on its agenda. In that context, we particularly welcome the Commission's obvious readiness to carefully listen to the countries on its agenda and to not deliver lessons, and its choice of practical relevance over institutional independence.

The five-year review of the Commission's work, conducted under the able guidance of the three co-facilitators, the Permanent Representatives of Ireland, Mexico and South Africa, resulted in an excellent report (A/64/868, annex) containing numerous valuable assessments and recommendations. Croatia fully supports the set of recommendations to foster partnership and cooperation between the PBC and the main United Nations bodies, in particular its parent bodies, the General Assembly and the Security Council. In that context, we fully support the co-facilitators' invitation to the PBC and the Assembly to develop a more interactive and structured relationship, including their appeal to the seven Commission members elected from among the Assembly's constituency to play a bridging role in bringing about a rapprochement between it and the PBC.

Furthermore, Croatia wholeheartedly supports the proposal to organize periodic thematic debates of the General Assembly related to key thematic issues under consideration in the Commission, as well as to frame the Assembly's discussions with a view to achieving specific outcomes. In that way, six years after the Commission's inception, the Assembly could finally actualize some of its key parental rights and obligations by providing the Commission with clear guidance and advice, and by receiving the Commission's recommendations on any relevant peacebuilding issue.

I would like to take this opportunity to emphasize once again the important nexus between transitional recovery and sustainable development and, in that context, the deeply interdependent and intrinsically correlated complex agendas of the PBC and the Economic and Social Council. Accordingly, Commission members elected from among that Council's constituency should make a conscious effort to involve their fellow members in the work of the PBC and to encourage and facilitate the PBC's involvement in any peacebuilding-related issue on the agenda of the Economic and Social Council.

Furthermore, let me add that Croatia sees particular merit in the possible role of the Economic and Social Council as an appropriate facilitator of cooperation between the PBC and United Nations programmes and funds and other specialized agencies. Such efforts would be aimed at helping the Commission to better perform its basic functions.

Croatia attaches particular importance to the Commission's mandate to improve coordination among all relevant actors involved in peacebuilding efforts. In that regard, we follow with great interest and fully support the PBC's continued endeavours to strengthen partnerships with key peacebuilding actors, especially international financial institutions, in particular the World Bank, prominent regional and subregional organizations and other relevant international actors.

Croatia welcomes further improvements in communication and cross-learning among the various country-specific configurations. We commend the

dedication and commitment with which the country configuration Chairs fulfil their duties. We fully support the configurations' ongoing efforts to combine flexible and innovative approaches with solid and well-established foundations so as to better perform their designated responsibilities.

Croatia strongly supports the PBC's endeavours to identify ways to address gender issues in the core peacebuilding areas identified in the Secretary-General's report on peacebuilding in the immediate aftermath of conflict (A/63/881). My country also supports the PBC's efforts to ensure coherence with other ongoing gender- and peacebuilding-related processes, including the identification of indicators for tracking the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) and the review of international civilian capacities for peacebuilding.

In that regard, Croatia welcomes the recently released independent report of the Senior Advisory Group on civilian capacity in the aftermath of conflict (A/65/747). It is precisely a shortage of the civilian capacities needed to ensure sustainable peace that significantly characterizes almost all post-conflict States. We hope that the report and its valuable recommendations will help the United Nations and the international community to better meet the challenges of recruiting, training and deploying civilians with the appropriate expertise and knowledge so desperately needed in post-conflict peacebuilding.

Croatia highly values the logistical and substantive support that the Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO) is offering to the Commission and all of its configurations. At the same time, we are aware of the challenges facing the Office in carrying out its core functions.

Recognizing the PBSO's considerable efforts to organize the Peacebuilding Fund as a fast, relevant and catalytic instrument with a strong focus on programme quality and better performance reporting, Croatia supports calls for stronger synergy and improved communication between the Commission and the Fund. In that sense, we call for enhanced consultation and dialogue between the PBC and the Fund to improve their coordination in terms of the countries on the Commission's agenda and for further alignment of the Commission's instruments of engagement with the Fund's priority plans. Croatia welcomes the fact that the Fund has maintained its position as a global fund with one of the broadest donor bases of any multi-donor trust fund administered by the United Nations, and the fact that its donor base is further expanding. I confirm Croatia's strong determination to continue its financial support to the Fund.

Ms. Miranda (Peru) (*spoke in Spanish*): My delegation thanks you, Sir, for having organized today's joint debate. We also wish to thank Ambassador Wittig for his work, and take this opportunity to wish Ambassador Gasana every success in his efforts. My delegation endorses the statement made by the Permanent Representative of Bangladesh on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

My delegation wishes to thank the Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO) for having drafted the report of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) on its fourth session (A/65/701), in particular the section on the implementation of the recommendations arising from the review of the peacebuilding architecture, which my delegation deems to be of the greatest importance.

The annual report of the PBC comprehensively describes the activities of each configuration and their coordination and relationship with other sectors. However, the report could have been improved had it also contained an analysis section or brief analyses within each configuration of the real impact of the programmes and measures adopted and of the urgent steps required in the future. That is particularly relevant in terms of resource mobilization and development initiatives aimed at laying the foundation for economic recovery and revitalization. It is also relevant in the context of early involvement in peacebuilding efforts.

With regard to the development aspects of peacebuilding, my delegation recalls two recent Security Council debates on institution-building and on the interrelationship between security and development. It is essential for peacebuilding activities to be carried out in a long-term perspective, that it address issues of security and development in tandem, that it recognize the synergy between these two aspects, and that these activities follow the road map for implementing the recommendations arising from the PBC review process and on which the Organizational Committee has worked. In that respect, we believe that the PBC is focused more on development activities than on those related to job creation for youth.

Concerning the issues discussed in the Working Group on Lessons Learned and in the information provided on completed transactions, we see some positive examples of this approach that should be taken up, such as services related to the infrastructure as a foundation for economic recovery and support for strengthening and consolidating political institutions and reconciliation mechanisms, as well as social and judicial bodies. We need to incorporate these activities into the development aspects of the PBC, especially when they reflect the priorities determined for the use of resources from the Peacebuilding Fund. My delegation believes that the catalytic role of the Peacebuilding Commission could be further strengthened if these aspects were taken into account adequately and in depth, which should be borne in mind in the future annual report.

With regard to the report of the Secretary-General on the Peacebuilding Fund (A/65/353), while we are thankful for the drafting of this report and the increase in the available resources, we are also pleased to see progress achieved in its role as a crucial instrument for developing early peacebuilding activities and for creating transitional contexts in order to move the process of national ownership forward.

We welcome the efforts and achievements of the Immediate Response Facility designed to meet the unforeseen or urgent challenges to peacebuilding efforts. Accordingly, the delegation of Peru believes that these activities must be linked to all peacebuilding activities, early peacebuilding efforts in particular, in order to avoid duplication in the work of the United Nations and to ensure the goal of national ownership and the creation of local and national capacities.

We also note with deep interest the breakdown into sections of the four priority areas established for investments and projects of the Peacebuilding Fund, and we support the projects in these areas. It is important to bear in mind that the priorities and their different fields of action do not need to follow a fixed order and that their drafting and implementation should depend on the requirements of the country in question and on the particular characteristics of the post-conflict situation that is being addressed.

Finally, with regard to the harmonized indicators being created to improve evaluation and monitoring of activities, we believe that they should be drafted in close coordination with the various actors involved in the strategy and implementation of peacebuilding efforts, in particular United Nations agencies and stakeholders. There must be a link between the programmes supported by the Fund to establish the bases for development and the projects being developed by other agencies with the same objectives, in particular the World Bank.

Mr. Diallo (Senegal) (*spoke in French*): Senegal endorses the statement made by the representative of Bangladesh on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement, and welcomes the holding of this joint plenary debate on agenda items 30 and 109, concerning, respectively, the report of the Peacebuilding Commission (A/65/701) and the report of the Secretary-General on the Peacebuilding Fund (A/65/353). To be sure, this meeting is a timely opportunity to reassess the crucial actions of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC), whose role in the peace agenda justifies the particular interest that my delegation attaches to its activities.

We agree that the mission of the PBC is not an easy one. I therefore take this opportunity to thank the outgoing Chair of the PBC, Ambassador Peter Wittig of Germany, for his leadership of that important mechanism, and to wish the new Chair, Ambassador Eugène-Richard Gasana of Rwanda, every success as he carries out his mission.

The 2010 review of the provisions of General Assembly resolution 60/180 and Security Council resolution 1645 (2005), which created the Peacebuilding Commission, enables us to study in depth the role of the PBC and the best way to play it. The review shows that the progress made to date with the countries before the Commission does not meet our expectations. This situation, while in no way tarnishing the merits and praiseworthy work of the PBC, informs us at least on one important point. Additional efforts are needed to make the PBC more effective and better able to achieve its goals. That is what it will take to ensure that it plays a role consonant with our ambitions.

Fortunately, the review of the peacebuilding architecture has identified key issues that could guide our efforts in this regard. These include improving impacts on the ground; strengthening national ownership; building partnerships with the primary stakeholders, specifically donors; better mobilization of resources; and better focus on development activities.

Furthermore, the PBC needs to fully play its advisory role by improving its cooperation with the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly, and by strengthening its links with the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. Ongoing interaction with these different bodies would provide more consistency and greater synergy that would make the PBC a genuine platform for the coordination of peacebuilding activities. Naturally, the links between the Peacebuilding Support Office and the PBC also need to be strengthened.

National ownership and capacity-building of States affected by conflict must remain at the heart of the activities of peacebuilding if we are to truly meet the needs of these countries. That is particularly necessary in that peacebuilding will be effective only if it offers them adequate capacities to recover and take charge of their own destinies. The recent independent report of the Senior Advisory Group on civilian capacity in the aftermath of conflict notes that, regrettably,

> "the international response to conflict is often supply-driven, with international actors focusing on what they can provide, rather than listening to the real needs of those they serve" (*A/65/747, p. 3*).

This alarming observation raises the question of whether demand on the ground is commensurate with available supply.

For my delegation, it is in the vigorous application of the principle of national ownership that we find a solution to the problem. Therefore, we need to ensure that planning for peacebuilding is driven by the demand side and the needs of the countries involved. This will entail, inter alia, taking into account the priorities defined by these States and the implementation of viable policies aimed at empowering national stakeholders, and young people in particular. This is how we will lay solid foundations for an effective transition from war to lasting peace. We hope that the Commission will take account of this in countries like Guinea-Bissau, where everything feels like a priority in terms of national reconstruction. Likewise, we would like to see a favourable response to Guinea's request, so that its political transition may have a better chance of success.

The question of the participation of women in peacebuilding is another major concern for my delegation. We will never achieve that momentous task unless we reverse the current trend and make women full partners in peacebuilding and not merely the innocent victims of conflicts. That can be achieved by promoting the role of women in all decision-making bodies.

It is clear that the task is indeed ambitious, but it is within our grasp if together we can show the faith and commitment this important challenge requires.

Mr. Jomaa (Tunisia) (*spoke in French*): Tunisia welcomes the convening of this debate on the fourth annual report of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) and the report of the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF), contained in documents A/65/701 and A/65/353, respectively. My delegation expresses its thanks to His Excellency Mr. Peter Wittig, Permanent Representative of Germany, for having introduced the report of the Commission on its work during its fourth session. I also take this opportunity to commend him and his team for their commitment and skill during the Commission's work last year.

Likewise, I express my gratitude to the Ambassadors of Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Jordan and Switzerland, who chaired the country-specific configurations of the Commission during the reporting period.

I should also like to commend the role of the Peacebuilding Support Office for the work it carries out every day in fulfilling its mission.

Tunisia fully endorses the statement delivered by the representative of Bangladesh on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement. At the same time, we also wish to make our own contribution to this debate.

This year, Tunisia sat on the Organizational Committee of the Peacebuilding Commission for the first time. It has been a great honour for my delegation to take part in the work of the Commission and to underscore our determination to participate actively therein, especially as this year marks the beginning of a new era for the Commission as it follows up on the outcome of the recently concluded review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture.

During the reporting period, the Peacebuilding Commission made significant and promising progress. We note with satisfaction that it has already focused efforts on a number of fundamental issues at the centre of the subsequent recommendations of the review of

the peacebuilding architecture, specifically in the areas of strengthening partnerships with major regional and international stakeholders, support for the countries on its agenda, the mobilization of resources, youth empowerment and economic recovery. We were also pleased to note that during the reporting period the Commission began focusing on a number of crucial issues, including the strengthening of national ownership and improving the impact on the ground. Drawing lessons from its initial years of activity, we are more than ever convinced that the Peacebuilding Commission is of great value and has its own place in the institutional architecture of the United Nations.

Peacebuilding and reconciliation in the aftermath of conflict must be carried out in a coordinated, coherent and comprehensive way if lasting peace is to be established. The Commission has worked hard to play this coordinating role and to cement the links between the various stakeholders. These coordination efforts should be maintained and stepped up, bringing together all political, economic and humanitarian actors at Headquarters and in the field, and civil society.

Turning to the Peacebuilding Fund, my delegation believes that this instrument has enormous potential because it can be easily adapted to the specific problems of post-conflict stabilization and recovery. While the Fund is at the disposal of the Secretariat, my delegation underscores the fact that it is up to the Assembly to give it overall guidance. With regard to its activities during the reporting period, we are pleased to note the broadening of the Fund's donor base and the growth of its portfolio, which enabled it to provide almost $63 million — a considerable increase from 20909 — to security sector reform, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, youth employment, national reconciliation, good governance and the promotion of the rule of law. The improved quality of the Fund's programmes and the broadening of their scope are due both to new donor commitments and to improvement in its management systems.

Finally, we note that the Fund will, as of this year, begin following up on the recommendations of the review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture, in particular in the area of enhancing synergies with the Peacebuilding Commission.

Mr. Sergeyev (Ukraine): At the outset, let me express my gratitude to the former Chairperson of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC), Ambassador Peter Wittig of Germany, for his comprehensive presentation of the report of the PBC on its fourth session (A/65/701). While Ukraine aligns itself with the statement of the European Union, I would like to make a few points in my national capacity.

As one can see from the presentation and the report itself, the year 2010 was not an ordinary one for the Peacebuilding Commission, with the advancement of the peacebuilding agenda across a number of areas. Among these, I would like to highlight the following.

The 2010 review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture proved to be a successful exercise in identifying its distinctive strengths and weaknesses. We commend the co-facilitators of the review for conducting a thorough and forward-looking analysis, and look forward to the early and faithful implementation of its recommendations.

Ukraine welcomes the inclusion in the PBC agenda of Liberia and, more recently, Guinea, with the subsequent emergence of new country-specific configurations. In our view, this expansion of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture, following a first direct request in the case of Guinea, is a clear indication of its relevance and the steady demand for its role on the ground. We wish the new configurations and their Chairs every success.

We are encouraged by the trend of closer cooperation between the PBC and the Security Council, with more active engagement of the Chairs of the country configurations in the Council's activities. Last week's Security Council meeting (see S/PV.6495), with the participation of the Chair of the Liberia configuration, and an informal interactive dialogue involving him and the Burundi configuration, are good examples of the evolving synergy between the two bodies, which can only be to their mutual benefit. In this regard, we see merit in extending Security Council engagement to all PBC country configurations and further exploring the most suitable and creative formats for such interaction.

All these are commendable developments that bode well for the PBC's becoming a more mature and influential body. However, we strongly support the need for further efforts to strengthen the Commission's impact in the field, to sharpen its analytical edge and to enable greater flexibility in its country-specific activities. To achieve these and other objectives,

Ukraine echoes the calls of those delegations that have urged the Commission to capitalize on the momentum generated in 2010 and have advocated for a more visible political commitment from Member States and the senior leadership of the United Nations.

Ukraine is no stranger to peacebuilding. My country has a long, solid record of contributing to United Nations peacebuilding efforts, in particular through active military, police and civilian engagement in almost 20 missions under the auspices of the United Nations. That is why Ukraine takes its membership in the PBC and our vice-chairmanship this year very seriously. As we are fully committed to strengthening the United Nations peacebuilding architecture, we support the priorities outlined by the current PBC Chair, Ambassador Eugène-Richard Gasana of Rwanda, in his inaugural statement and reconfirmed this morning. To implement them early and effectively, we deem it necessary to build on and further develop the institutional and intellectual fabric of the PBC.

There is no doubt that two foundational documents of the PBC to date are the 2010 review document (A/64/868, annex) and the road map for action in 2011. That is why Ukraine believes it is entirely appropriate that the PBC Chairpersons' work plan should be neatly tailored to the road map.

As a creation of its parent bodies, the General Assembly and Security Council, the PBC has to adopt and develop their most elaborate and sophisticated features. One of these, to our mind, is the growing thematic focus of both the Assembly and the Council. For the PBC to profit from this best practice, Ukraine suggested that the Organizational Committee explore avenues of engagement with relevant United Nations organs and dedicated entities on a number of cross-cutting issues. Among these are women's participation in peacebuilding, children in peacebuilding, youth in peacebuilding and the peacekeeping and peacebuilding nexus.

As a member of the PBC, the Economic and Social Council and UN Women, Ukraine also sees merit in considering the idea of establishing triangular institutional cooperation between these bodies, in keeping with the road map to which I have referred. We are encouraged by the support that these suggestions are enjoying in the PBC Chairs' group and look forward to meaningful follow-up on them. We stand ready to play our full part.

Finally, I would also like to add our voice in favour of strengthening the Peacebuilding Support Office as the guardian of the Commission's institutional memory.

As eloquently stated in the 2010 review document, "peacebuilding is a litmus test of our Organization and much more needs to be done collectively, if that test is to be passed" (*A/64/868, annex, para 174*). It is up to us to ensure that the Peacebuilding Commission lives up to that task.

Mr. Wang Min (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): I would like to thank Ambassador Wittig for introducing the report of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) at its fourth session (A/65/701). I also welcome the report of Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) (A/65/353). I would like to take this opportunity to thank Ambassador Wittig and his team for their hard work over the past year. I also commend the members of the country-specific configurations, the Chair of the Working Group on Lessons Learned and the members of the Peacebuilding Support Office for their efforts.

The founding of the PBC was an important moment in the reform of the United Nations. The Peacebuilding Commission has played a very important role in helping countries emerging from conflict in efforts to build peace. As indicated in the report, the PBC has made remarkable progress in its work in the five countries on its agenda. At the same time, the report also points out that the Commission faces some challenges.

Peacebuilding is a lengthy, complex and arduous task. As a young institution, established only a little over five years ago, the Commission still has a long way to go in fully and effectively implementing the mandate given to it by the resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council and in achieving the goals set for it at its inception. I would like to elaborate on the following five points.

First, the United Nations should further coordinate its engagement in peacemaking, peacekeeping and peacebuilding. It is important to strengthen preventive diplomacy to alleviate instability and conflicts and reduce the demand of the international community for peacekeeping and post-conflict peacebuilding. We should make full use of the intrinsic link between peacekeeping and peacebuilding and give due attention to peacebuilding

aspects at an early stage of peacekeeping efforts so as to create favourable conditions for a smooth and seamless transition from peacekeeping to peacebuilding. At the same time, it is important to clarify the division of labour between peacekeeping and peacebuilding so as to avoid the duplication of efforts or the wasting of resources.

Secondly, the Peacebuilding Commission and relevant parties should fully respect the ownership of the host countries, focusing their support efforts on enhancing national capacity, consolidating peace, promoting reconciliation and launching socio-economic development. Host countries should assume the primary responsibility in post-conflict peacebuilding. The Commission should provide advice and assistance based on conditions set by the country concerned in determining the priorities and comprehensive strategy of post-conflict peacebuilding. We hope that the PBC will pay particular attention to addressing the underlying causes of conflict, such as poverty and the lack of governance in a country.

Thirdly, we support the continued strengthening of coordination between the PBC and the main bodies of the United Nations, such as the Security Council, the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council. It should also strengthen cooperation with international and regional organizations outside of the United Nations system, so as to complement each other's comparative advantages and thus improve the effective of their work. We encourage the Commission to provide relevant advice to the Security Council on peacebuilding and to strengthen its communication with international financial institutions, such as the World Bank, regional organizations and the private sector so as to facilitate greater contributions to post-conflict peacebuilding.

Fourthly, while the PBC has made progress in improving its working methods and the efficiency of its work, there is still room for improvement. There is a need to gather its experiences and lessons and compile best practices. Its Organizational Committee and its country-specific configurations should streamline their meetings, increase their focus and ensure the quality of their meetings. At present, there are six countries on the PBC agenda. The PBC should therefore concentrate its efforts on achieving concrete results in its peacebuilding work in those countries.

Fifthly, the Peacebuilding Fund has played an active role in supporting the peacebuilding efforts of countries emerging from conflict. Remarkable progress has been made. China welcomes the further improvement in the management of the PBF, its project approval and implementation, the strengthening of its performance management provisions and its increased communication with the PBC so as to maximize its utilization of resources.

We call on more countries to contribute to the PBF and encourage the PBC to play its part as a resource-mobilization platform, including through its permanent relationship with the World Bank and other international financial institutions.

China supports the work of the PBC and the PBF. Since 2007, China has contributed $4 million to the PBF. This year and next year, we will continue to do so by contributing $2 million. As always, China will continue to contribute to United Nations peacekeeping efforts.

Mr. Rai (Nepal): Let me begin by expressing my delegation's sincere appreciation to you, Mr. President, for having organized this joint debate on the annual report of the Peacebuilding Commission (A/65/701) and the Secretary-General's report on the Peacebuilding Fund (A/65/353). I also express our appreciation to the Secretary-General and to the former Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission, Ambassador Wittig, for presenting these reports. We are confident that this joint debate will serve as a way to meaningfully engage a broader number of Member States in the activities of the Peacebuilding Commission and the Peacebuilding Fund. I align my delegation with the statement delivered by the representative of Bangladesh on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

The Peacebuilding Commission was established as a dedicated institutional mechanism to address the special needs of countries emerging from conflict in terms of recovery, reintegration and reconstruction, and to assist them in laying a foundation for sustainable development. The experience to date in the countries on its agenda has amply justified its founding logic and the value of such a dedicated intergovernmental body providing much-needed technical, developmental and financial support to these countries.

Building peace after conflict requires coordinated multifaceted efforts and sufficient investment. We

cannot emphasize enough the importance of partnership among the Peacebuilding Commission, international financial institutions, regional and subregional organizations and other relevant international actors in harmonizing their support and pooling their resources for effective peacebuilding activities on the ground. The strategic development framework must be prepared with wider consultation so as to ensure a better reflection of national priorities. The report rightly focuses on the need for a single, overall planning document, around which all international support must revolve.

Broader political consensus and commitment to the peace process must be underlined and given sufficient focus in any peacebuilding activities. Following the stabilization of the security situation, restoring basic services, establishing and strengthening essential public institutions, preparing for elections and implementing quick-impact projects in critical areas are some of the early peacebuilding efforts that would greatly help ensure local people's continued support for peacebuilding activities. The mainstreaming of women, marginalized groups and young people should be important and integral components of all peacebuilding processes.

Capacity-building is key to ensuring national ownership. No matter how difficult the situation is, the Peacebuilding Commission must keep national ownership front and centre in its activities in the field. This is the only way to ensure that the peacebuilding process is driven by national actors in a sustainable manner; indeed, it is essential for the success of the Peacebuilding Commission and for its timely exit from the field.

As mentioned in the report, synergy between the Peacebuilding Commission and the Peacebuilding Fund must be ensured for effective and efficient financing and for maximum impact on the ground in the implementation of targeted projects. We would like to see a substantial increase in support to the Peacebuilding Fund so that sufficient funding can be made available for peacebuilding activities in a timely and predictable manner.

It is good to note that the President of the Security Council has continued to extend invitations to the Chairs of the country configurations to brief the Council. These invitations to the Council's periodic considerations of the situations of and mandates involving the countries on the Commission's agenda should be continued and further strengthened to enhance the coherence and effectiveness of peace consolidation work.

The Working Group on Lessons Learned must be fully utilized as a platform for the distillation of pragmatic knowledge for the benefit of country configurations and the wider peacebuilding community. Nepal had the opportunity to chair the Working Group during 2010. We believe that better follow up and stronger integration of the findings relating to peacebuilding activities could help enhance our effectiveness on the ground.

Ms. Rulumeni (South Africa): We thank you, Mr. President, for having organized this joint debate. Today's joint debate on the report (A/65/701) of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) and the Secretary-General's report on the Peacebuilding Fund (A/65/353) presents an important opportunity for us to take stock with a view to consolidating gains and identifying challenges in the implementation of peacebuilding activities.

South Africa wishes to express its sincere thanks to Ambassador Wittig for his efforts and dedication. We also extend our gratitude to the Chairs of the five country-specific configurations. We are also pleased to learn that there is already growing momentum to take forward the recommendations of the report (A/64/868, annex) of the co-facilitators, namely, the representatives of Ireland, Mexico and South Africa, on the 2010 review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture within the platform of the Peacebuilding Commission.

The Peacebuilding Commission has made a significant contribution to United Nations peacebuilding efforts since it was established, six years ago. The five countries currently on its agenda have benefited in various ways, including through assistance provided under the Peacebuilding Fund and programmes.

The recent addition of Liberia to the Commission's agenda, on 16 September 2010, and the admission of Guinea is yet another indication of the significance of the work of the Commission. We have also witnessed growing interest from Member States choosing to assist and be associated with peacebuilding activities. However, more still needs to be done on the

implementation side and my delegation believes that there is huge scope for improvement in that regard.

Turning to the reports before us, it is my delegation's view that the annual report of the PBC is comprehensive, factual and gives a full account of the activities of the PBC as concretely carried out over the past year. However, South Africa believes that the Peacebuilding Commission could improve its reporting by also reflecting more on the following areas.

The report should focus on further enhancing cooperation and information sharing. For example, lessons learned should be shared between the General Assembly, the Security Council and other United Nations bodies such as the Economic and Social Council and the United Nations Development Programme. The report should therefore necessarily focus on the effective utilization of the Working Group on Lessons Learned. The Group could contribute added value by providing guidance and insight to potential candidates for addition to the PBC agenda.

It should also focus on the lack of close coordination between all stakeholders, including by promoting greater consideration of women and civil society in peacebuilding, leadership and development issues. The report could also focus more on the Commission's interaction with regional and subregional organizations and the international financial institutions, which have a dynamic role to play in promoting peace and security in the region, as well as on socio-economic development.

With regard to the Peacebuilding Fund, I will limit my remarks to two key specific issues. First, with regard to the Fund's interaction with the Peacebuilding Commission, my delegation believes that the existing complementarities between the Peacebuilding Commission and Peacebuilding Fund should be sustained and maintained. As financial contributions from the donor community are shrinking due to the global financial meltdown, it will be necessary for the Peacebuilding Fund to take stock of its activities with a view to prioritizing the limited resources in order to maximize the benefits. Among other considerations, good governance and accountability are often used as preconditions for funding by the donor community — an approach that at times leads to delays in the implementation of peacebuilding initiatives. We therefore appeal to the international community to look again at this approach, with the understanding that countries emerging from conflict face unique challenges that cannot be overcome in a short period of time.

The Peacebuilding Support Office, in partnership with the United Nations system, adds enormous value to peacebuilding efforts. However, it continues to face challenges of limited expertise and resources. If these considerable challenges are addressed, the role of the Peacebuilding Support Office in providing assistance to the Peacebuilding Commission could produce even better results.

In conclusion, it is our sincere hope that the roll-out strategy for the peacebuilding road map on the PBC Chair's proposal for taking forward the recommendations of the report of the co-facilitators would add value not only by enhancing the work of Peacebuilding Commission but also by improving coordination and relations between the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly.

Mr. Goledzinowski (Australia): Australia is taking the floor as a country committed to the work of peacebuilding. Some of the most difficult but important work that we can do today is centred around peacebuilding and the work of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC). We appreciated our term of office as a member of the Organizational Committee in 2010, and intend to remain closely engaged with the work of the Peacebuilding Commission through the activities of the country-specific configurations.

The 2010 annual report (A/65/701), before us today, demonstrates the evolution that this body has undergone over the past 18 months, including under the able leadership of Germany as Chair of the Commission.

We believe the PBC is now entering a very important period, partly because of the changes associated with implementing the recommendations of the five-year review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture. I think all of us agree that we need a PBC that is more relevant, more flexible, empowered and better understood, but, most important, more ambitious than the one we have today.

It is also an important period because of the innovations that are being undertaken in the context of peacebuilding, including in the Liberia configuration

through the new streamlined mechanisms, which emphasize alignment with national priorities.

It is also an exciting time because the delegation of Rwanda is assuming its position as Chair of the Organizational Committee this year. That delegation's experience, perspectives and moral authority will make a difference.

Finally, in this context, the civilian capacity review is an interesting new challenge for us to take into account in our consideration of peacebuilding activities in general.

During our time as a member of the Organizational Committee, we learned lessons about peacebuilding and how it is done within the United Nations system. I would like to briefly touch on three of these, which are also highlighted in the annual report and which we see as key to the way in which the Commission goes forward with its work.

The first — and I acknowledge that a number of delegations have touched on this — is the importance of strengthening our relationship with other peacebuilding actors. We strongly believe in a deeper and more structured relationship between the PBC and regional actors such as the African Union and other African institutions. This is absolutely critical in how we go forward. One very obvious example is that of drug trafficking, which is a threat to peace in many West African countries, and one which requires a regional approach.

We also emphasize, as others have done, the importance of deepening the relationship between the PBC and the international financial institutions, in particular the World Bank. We also need to work more closely with civil society, including as part of its broad role as a focal point for peacebuilding efforts for all relevant players, drawing together and disseminating information on challenges, lessons learned and best practices. We encourage efforts to increase the synergies between the PBC and the international dialogue on peacebuilding and State-building.

There are two other important actors, namely, the Secretariat and the Security Council. In terms of the United Nations system, we agree with the comments made by the Ambassador of Rwanda, who highlighted the critical role that the Secretary-General himself can play in ensuring system-wide coherence and encouraging stronger links between the PBC, on the one hand, and the agencies, funds and programmes and Secretariat departments, on the other, in peacebuilding operations.

The other actor I mentioned was the Security Council. Again, others, such as the representative of Ukraine, have mentioned the need for a deeper, more organic and more structured relationship between the PBC and the Security Council. We acknowledge the value of the interactive dialogue that has taken place and urge that more be done in that regard. But in our view, the Security Council needs to be more open in its engagement with the Peacebuilding Commission, including in areas where perhaps not enough has been done. One area that comes to mind is the question of mandates of peacekeeping missions, which, after all, is where peacebuilding starts — we have said that so many times — and where the Peacebuilding Commission has value to add.

The second lesson that Australia learned was the importance of reinforcing national ownership and capacity. This is something that it is easy to pay lip service to, but it can be very difficult to achieve in practice. We strongly support the g7+ forum of fragile and conflict-affected countries and regions, reflecting our strong conviction that peacebuilding goals should be set at the country level. In that regard, we support improving the alignment of the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) with national peacebuilding priorities as identified by the PBC and country agendas.

The third issue that I think emerges very strongly in the annual report is that of resource mobilization. Mobilizing resources is just one of the roles of the PBC, but it is an important one for bringing partners together in a way that will support the critical work that we need to undertake. Resource mobilization is clearly an area where the Commission can intensify its efforts. We have a collective responsibility to ensure that the PBC deliver in this regard.

We are also here to discuss the report on the Peacebuilding Fund (A/65/353), on which I will say a few words. Australia has committed $7 million to the PBF since its inception, and we will continue to be engaged as a donor. In addition, we have also contributed direct assistance to peacebuilding activities in Sierra Leone this year and for the Burundi elections in 2010.

We note that the allocation under the new Fund grew substantially in 2009 and 2010, supporting more

than double the number of countries than during the Fund's first year. This has also allowed for rapid growth in the number of projects, but that growth has not been matched by the same level of growth in the funding of the Fund. We encourage the continued increase in the number of projects and believe it to be a very positive sign of the way in which the PBF is working. However, it is important that the quality of support provided not be compromised. That will of course require additional and adequate resources.

Measuring the effectiveness of peacebuilding operations is another problem. It is in fact very difficult and we have yet to work out how to do so. We support the plans, as outlined in the report, to develop a harmonized system of indicators for the Fund. We also support the use of a gender scoring system within the harmonized indicators as a way of ensuring that we are meeting the objectives that we have set for ourselves in that regard.

Finally, we look forward to hearing from the countries receiving support from the Fund on their views of the Fund's management arrangements and impact, both now and on a regular basis. If we are not meeting their needs, then the Fund is not fulfilling the purpose we have set for it.

Mr. Moraes Cabral (Portugal): Allow me to thank the Permanent Representatives of Germany and Rwanda for their contributions to our debate. I would also like to commend the Chairs of the country-specific configurations for their commitment and leadership. Portugal of course shares the positions that the Ambassador of Hungary has presented on behalf of the European Union.

We welcome the report (A/65/701) of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) and its comprehensive overview of activities, especially those of the various country configurations. The recent creation of a country-specific configuration for the Republic of Guinea is a clear testament to the success of the PBC as an important platform for international support for the transition of post-conflict societies towards durable peace.

Portugal strongly supports an approach to international assistance that takes into account the relationship between security and development. Ensuring that those two dimensions are treated in an integrated manner from the early stages of peacekeeping requires bringing our political, development, security and humanitarian instruments under a single consistent framework. In each of the countries where it has evolved, the PBC is certainly an important part of the United Nations efforts to devise such a framework.

In our view, the present report provides an accurate account of how the peacebuilding agenda has gradually become an integral part of the United Nations work for peace, security and development. At the same time, it points out a number of challenges that need to be addressed in the future. Allow me to focus on some of the challenges that, in our view, deserve particular attention.

First, in spite of the progress documented in the annual report, there is certainly room for improvement in the coordination and joint work between the PBC and other actors present on the ground. There is a growing perception in the international community of the PBC as a catalyst for the mobilization of donor resources, the identification of financing gaps and the setting of priorities for international assistance. However, there is a need to transfer that perception to the actual work being carried out on the ground.

Aside from the regular planning and articulation with national authorities, in our view, the PBC should be more consistently involved with other actors early on, first and foremost with United Nations agencies, but also with bilateral partners, international financial institutions and regional organizations. That would greatly benefit the efficiency of its endeavours and those of the international community as a whole. We note with satisfaction that this issue is one of the main aspects of the PBC road map for actions in 2011.

Secondly, there is a clear trend that the PBC is becoming more engaged with what the report calls the developmental aspects of peacebuilding and economic revitalization. In the light of what I just said about the nexus between security and development, we believe this to be a positive development that should be encouraged in future reviews of priority plans. In particular, I would underline those actions promoted by the PBC aimed at addressing the problem of youth employment. Youth unemployment, especially in West Africa, has serious destabilizing potential, and local actors have little capacity to promote greater access to the labour market. However, PBC engagement in that area requires more consistent dialogue with development agencies so as to promote a peacebuilding

approach to what should be a priority in the countries on the PBC agenda.

Finally, we should ensure greater flexibility and adaptability of the PBC mechanisms, especially as regards its relations with the Peacebuilding Fund. The advantage of being a relatively new institution is that it should be able to react and adapt more quickly than other institutions to evolving situations in each of the countries covered. In order to do so, Portugal believes that the PBC would greatly benefit from stronger synergies with the Security Council.

I wish to conclude by saying that Portugal actively participates in three of the country-specific configurations. We look forward to participating in the Guinea configuration. We strongly believe in the PBC's added value in contributing to more efficient and integrated action by the international community throughout the various post-conflict and peacebuilding stages in the countries involved. In our view, the success of the PBC in fulfilling its functions represents our collective success in efforts towards achieving sustainable peace.

The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.